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THE TIMES

'Bargain offers' which break the law, page 19

Hostages fly off to freedom after Mr Reagan is sworn in

The 52 American hostages were flown out of Iran yesterday, half an hour after Mr Ronald Reagan had been sworn in as President of the United States. Shortly afterwards it was announced that ex-President Carter would go to Wiesbaden to greet the freed hostages. They stopped briefly at Athens on their way to Algiers. Two hospital aircraft left West Germany for Algiers to collect them. In his inaugural address, President Reagan gave a warning: "Our forbearance should never be misunderstood. Our reluctance for conflict should not be misunderstood as a failure of will." He also devoted much of his speech to America's economic difficulties.

Algerian plane leaves amid tight security

From Tony Allaway
Tehran, Jan 20

The hostages crisis is over. The 52 Americans flew from Tehran to freedom tonight on board an Algerian aircraft. The relief and emotion of seeing the aircraft lifting into the air—ending the crisis that astonished the world for all its 444 days—is indescribable.

I watched the jet carrying the hostages lift off from Tehran in mid-evening from the only vantage point available—the top of a 10-storey block of flats across from the airport.

Revolutionary guards and airport police had barred journalists from getting anywhere near the runway or airport buildings as the final minutes of this long drama were played out.

From my vantage point I saw three aircraft depart. First to leave were the Algerian officials, who had acted as intermediaries between Tehran and Washington over the long weeks of hard and harassed negotiations.

Then the first of the two Algerian Boeing 727s tore along the runway carrying the hostages themselves according to the official Pars news agency. The departure of the last aircraft, another 727 reportedly carrying six Algerian doctors, was delayed by the arrival of an Iranian Air Force plane.

No journalists were allowed to see the hostages before their departure and the only westerners who saw them were Mr Erik Lang, the Swiss Ambassador to Iran, and another official from the Swiss Embassy.

The Swiss Embassy has handled American interests in Iran since the hostage crisis began.

Where the hostages had been kept before they boarded their 727 at 7.40 pm local time, remained a mystery, although one reliable source said they had been kept at the airport overnight after yesterday's failure to release them.

As the hostages went on board, revolutionary guards and others around the trio of jets shouted "God is great", "Down with America", "Down with Reagan", according to the Iranian news agency. Also surrounding the aircraft were Algerian embassy staff "as if on guard", the agency said.

The hostages were led to the 727 by Ahmad Asisi, one of the Iranians in charge of hostage negotiations. Algerian officials also boarded the aircraft and talked to the hostages. The jet carrying the hostages toook off 45 minutes after the hostages had gone on board.

The first most journalists knew about the departure was when they heard the roar of the first jet taking off. The journalists had been blocked at a junction in the airport, guarded by heavily-armed security forces. Only official Iranian journalists were allowed near the Algerian jets.

After many efforts to end the crisis had fallen flat in the face of deep hostility, suspicion and the ceaseless turmoil of post-revolutionary politics, it was hard to believe that I was watching the hostages taking off.

Despite having a taste of Iranian prisons myself, it was hard to imagine just how much emotion the hostages felt.

Having heard some descriptions of the hostages' condition—one person who saw them at Christmas likened them to "trained animals"—I could imagine, however, that the process of their rehabilitation to normal life might be painful.

An Iranian television film tonight showed that the hostages were brought off their bus one by one and—protected by revolutionary guards on either side—they walked the 20 yards to the aircraft. Not until one hostage was on board, was another allowed to leave the bus.

All through this the crowd of guards, police, and officials gathered round chanting their slogans, including a vociferous rendition of "Khomeini is our leader". Tehran radio later confirmed that among those around the aircraft were [illegible] of the students who first took over the American Embassy "spy nest".

The final day of the crisis had begun on a far more pessimistic note than it ended, with an Iranian warning that the United States had been given an unspecified deadline in which to transfer Iran's frozen assets to a special Algerian account in the Bank of England.

This followed last night's revelation that the Iranians had been handed an appendix to the agreement with the United States which it was indicated had caused the Iranian Government deep concern.

Athens arrival: The hostages landed at Athens international airport later on their way to Algiers (AP reports from Athens).



Bespectacled Joseph Subic, aged 23, from Michigan, preparing to board the hostages' plane at Tehran airport.

'It is time to reawaken this industrial giant . . . to lighten our tax burden'

Quick action pledge on US economy

From Patrick Brogan
Washington, Jan 20

Mr Ronald Reagan was sworn in as President of the United States at noon today. Half an hour later, the Algerian aircraft carrying the American hostages took off from Tehran, removing the problem that has bedevilled American foreign policy for the past year and freeing President Reagan's hands to cope with the other immense burdens he has inherited.

In his inaugural address, Mr Reagan said: "Our forbearance should never be misunderstood. Our reluctance for conflict should not be misjudged as a failure of will. When action is required to preserve our national security, we will act.

"No weapon in the arsenals of the world is so formidable as the will and moral courage of free men and women", he said. "It is a weapon our adversaries in today's world do not have. It is a weapon that we as Americans do have. Let that be understood by those who practise terrorism and prey upon their neighbours."

Mr Reagan promised loyal cooperation with neighbours and allies. "We will strengthen our historic ties with those who share our ideal of freedom", he said, "and assure them of our support and firm commitment. We will match loyalty with loyalty. We will strive for mutually beneficial relations. We will not use our friendship to impose on their sovereignty, for our own sovereignty is not for sale."

Mr Reagan devoted much of his speech to describing the economic difficulties that now beset the country and promising to start the long business of reducing inflation, balancing the budget and reducing taxation.

"In the days ahead", he said, "I will propose removing a number of the roadblocks that have slowed our economy and reduced productivity. Steps will be taken aimed at restoring the balance between the various levels of government.

"Progress will be slow, measured in inches and feet, not miles, but we will progress. It is time to reawaken this industrial giant, to get government back within its means, and to lighten our punitive tax burden. These will be our first priorities, and on these principles there will be no compromise."

The ceremony was held outside the west front of the Capitol, facing down the Mall towards the monuments and the White House. It has usually been held on the other side of the building, or at the White House.

It was a very warm and balmy day. When the new President said "as we renew ourselves here in our own land, we will be seen as having greater strength throughout the world", the sun came out to shine brightly upon the [illegible] retired actor and former Governor of California.

He is often described as the fortieth President if President Grover Cleveland is counted twice for serving two separated terms. He is the oldest man ever elected President: his seventieth birthday falls next month, and come the summer he will be older than President Eisenhower was when he left office.

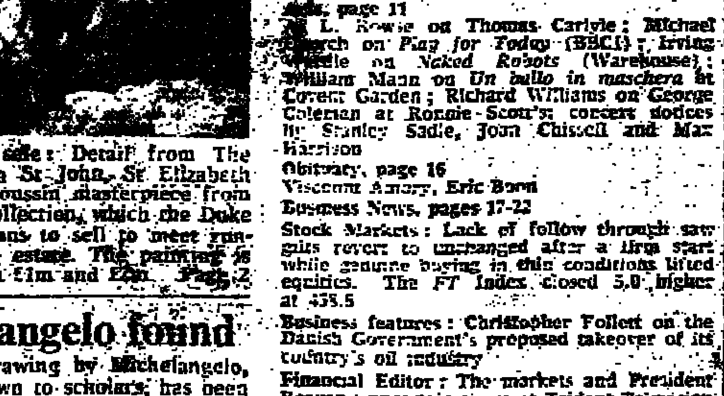
The ceremony is a simple one. Mr Reagan had been staying at Blair House, a government guest house across the road from the White House, and first thing this morning he went to church.

Then, following tradition, he went with his wife to the White House, where President Carter met him on the steps. The two families, and the Vice-president and the Vice-President-elect and their wives, spent half an hour together before setting out for the Capitol. Vice-President Walter Mondale and Vice-President-elect George Bush first in one car, President Carter and President-elect Reagan in the next.

The same order of precedence was observed at the ceremony. First came Mr Mondale, then Mr Bush, then Mr Carter and, last of all, Mr Reagan. The new Vice-President then took the oath, then Mr Reagan.

As he finished reading the words laid down by the Constitution, which every President has read since George Washington in 1789, the band struck up and a 21-gun salute was fired, the sound of the guns echoing round the monuments, museums and ministries of the Capitol.

Continued on page 6, col 4



Mr Carter to head welcome reception in West Germany

From David Cross
Washington, Jan 20.

The United States and Iran today cleared what appeared to be the final hurdle in their negotiations for the return of the 52 American hostages, but not in time to give Mr Jimmy Carter the satisfaction of savouring their release during the final hours of his presidency.

The nation's highest office passed from Mr Carter to Mr Ronald Reagan at exactly noon today when the new President was sworn in on the west steps of the Capitol.

Mr Carter, who has spent the final days of his four years as President engaged in almost continuous negotiations on the hostage crisis, spent another final sleepless night at the White House last night as his financial and foreign policy advisers in Washington, London and Algiers worked feverishly to resolve last-minute snags.

The Iranians had objected late yesterday to the amount of interest that Washington was intending to pay on the frozen assets which have been held in the United States since the seizure of the hostages in November, 1979.

The problem was finally resolved at 3.15 am today and the United States Treasury set in motion the complex movements of frozen assets from banks in the United States to a special holding account for the Iranians at the Bank of England. This transaction, together with the necessary signing documents was concluded by dawn.

But as the morning advanced and Mr Carter prepared to transfer his powers to Mr Reagan, there was an agonizing delay. The gavel-to-gavel television coverage of the inauguration ceremonies on all three commercial networks was interrupted continually and irritatingly by speculation, rumour, and false reports

In his inaugural speech, however, Mr Reagan studiously avoided even an oblique mention of the hostages.

The first official American confirmation that the hostages were on their way home came at 12.40 pm when Mr Richard Allen, the new National Security Adviser said that the aircraft had just taken off from Tehran.

The first live eyewitness report on American television of the departure of the aircraft from Tehran came from Mr Tony Allaway, *The Times* correspondent in Iran.

Notwithstanding this obvious [illegible] the imminent release [illegible] hostages, Mr Carter was [illegible] his wish to fly to [illegible] greet the 52 Ameri[illegible] person as President of [illegible] States.

[illegible] Carter, the former Pre[illegible] leave for Wiesbaden, West Germany, tonight to greet [illegible] released from Iran, [illegible] Muskie, the former [illegible] State, said today. [illegible] and Mr William [illegible] Treasury secre[illegible] be going. Mr [illegible] Mr Carter would [illegible] Washington later to[illegible] the rest of the [illegible] for Germany.—Reuter.

Commando disbanded but Trident spared in £100m defence cuts

By Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent
Westminster

Mr John Nott, appointed during the Christmas recess to succeed Mr Francis Pym as Secretary of State for Defence, yesterday announced details of the £200m reduction in planned defence expenditure required by the Chancellor of the Exchequer as the department's share of essential cuts in government spending.

In doing so he allayed many of the worst fears on the Conservative benches that he was appointed as a creature of the Treasury to do a hatchet job on future defence budgets. With Mrs Thatcher sitting close behind him, he told the Commons firmly that he would be in charge of the Defence Department and not the Treasury, although he was sure that the two ministries would work closely together.

In reply to anxious questioning from MPs, Mr Nott gave an assurance that from now on, having accepted the cuts of £200m, the manifesto commitment of an annual increase in the defence budget of 3 per cent in real growth would take place in future years from the revised base. He pointed out that even with the reduction, defence spending had increased in real terms by 8 per cent since the general election.

While emphasizing the Government's commitment to increase defence expenditure, Mr Nott signalled a significant change of emphasis over the virtues of the cash limits in relation to his department. Whereas Mr Pym stated publicly that the Government's cash limits should not apply to defence spending, Mr Nott told the House that the cash limits system was "absolutely fundamental".

Although he accepted that the Defence Department was likely to overspend this year, he told MPs that it was necessary to keep to cash limits. However, he agreed with Mr Pym that it was difficult for the defence department, with an enormous procurement programme, always to get its expenditure absolutely within cash limits each year.

Although the cash limits for next year had not yet been decided, the defence budget was expected to be £12,500m, which was more than £1,000m higher than the budget this year. Announcing the cuts forced upon his department by the Treasury, he told MPs that the main changes accelerated the phasing out of some older equipment, the deferment of certain equipment procurements, the trimming of the works and training programmes and further reduction of overheads.

To the relief of many Tory MPs Mr Nott confirmed that there would be no going back on the decision to introduce

Continued on page 2, col 6

Lonrho loses vote in Fraser power tussle

By Philip Robinson
Financial Staff

House of Fraser directors yesterday beat off the second attack in seven months from its largest shareholder, Lonrho. But it is unlikely to be the last battle.

As a special shareholders' meeting in Glasgow broke up, Sir Hugh Fraser, the store group's chairman went into a board meeting with his directors. One of them Mr Roland "Tiny" Rowland Lonrho's chief executive, said: "Nothing has changed. This is only the second round. It is not the end, it is the beginning."

[illegible] launch a full bid for the 70 per cent it does not already own. The betting in Glasgow was that Lonrho would launch a full bid for House of Fraser before the week is out.

As Mr Rowland said: "We have the money. If we [illegible] bid it would be [illegible] pany. We [illegible] a partial [illegible] control."

Sir Hugh said after the meeting at the Merchants' House, in which his father first launched House of Fraser as a public company: "I am delighted at the confidence shareholders have shown in their board. We will now get on with our jobs.

"I would like to think we will be left in peace", he added, but refused to comment on whether he thought he would be.

Sir Hugh has already said he wants Lonrho's representatives, Mr Rowland and Lord Duncan-Sandys, voted off his board.

It is understood that the board may well begin to consider taking legal advice as to whether what has been described as Lonrho's "harassment" could be stopped through the courts. Mr Rowland, however, said he was prepared to bet 10 to 1 that Sir Hugh would not be chairman of Fraser at the end of this year.

Mr Ernest Sharp, former joint managing director of Grand Metropolitan and considered the most likely successor to Sir Hugh, said: "I'll take that bet."

It took just 30 minutes at the meeting for House of Fraser shareholders to signal their support for the board's decision to sell and lease back the D. H. Evans store in London's Oxford Street for £25m.

The deal, part of a £40m property package with Legal & General Assurance, was announced last November, but Lonrho, claiming the support of a number of small shareholders, challenged the move and requisitioned a special meeting. The fight for proxy votes commenced.

Sir Hugh announced early in the meeting that he had proxies totalling 71,455,646, against Lonrho's 51,872,533, including 45 million of its own shares.

Three attempts were made at voting on a show of hands, the results of one seeming to indicate that Lonrho had won, before a final vote decided Lonrho had lost 62 to 26.

Financial Editor, page 19

Labour Party runs up a £500,000 deficit

The Labour Party has run up a deficit of £500,000 because some trade unions have failed to keep their promise to pay their affiliation fees on time. Party leaders are being advised to halt recruitment of non-clerical staff at party headquarters. A loan of £250,000 from the unions before Christmas has been spent on paying wages to the staff Page 2

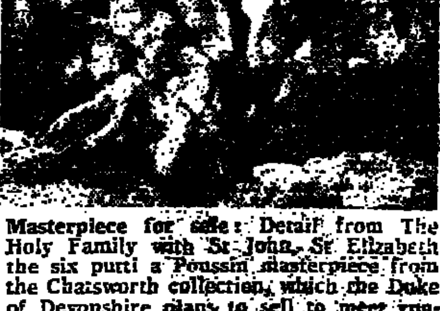
Arsonist killed 26

A Hull man aged 20, who pleaded guilty at Leeds Crown Court to the manslaughter of 26 people involving 10 fires, was ordered to be detained without limit of time in a special hospital in Liverpool. George Peter Lee, who called himself Bruce Lee, pleaded not guilty to 11 charges of arson Page 3

Black papers closed

The two main black newspapers have been forced to close down by the South African Government. The registration of the papers had lapsed as a result of a strike by their black editorial staff. This is the second time in three years that the Government has silenced the voice of black opinion. The papers' predecessors were banned in 1977 Page 6





Masterpiece for sale: Detail from The Holy Family with St John, St Elizabeth the six putti a Poussin masterpiece from the Chatsworth collection, which the Duke of Devonshire plans to sell to meet running costs of the estate. The painting is valued at between £1m and £2m. Page 2

A Michelangelo found

A black chalk drawing by Michelangelo, which was unknown to scholars, has been found in Switzerland. It has been identified as Christ and the Woman of Samaria, dating from about 1543. It was in a collection of drawings that had escaped scholarly attention Page 16

Air fares: British Airways has applied for permission to raise domestic rates by 15 per cent from April 1 3

Soldier killed by sniper in Londonderry attack

From Our Correspondent
Londonderry

A soldier aged 21 was murdered last night by the Provisional IRA as he was closing a security gate in the City Walls between the oldest part of Londonderry and the Bogside.

A sniper fired 10 shots. Another soldier was taken to hospital with serious injuries.

In Dungannon, co Tyrone, three men are expected to appear in court today charged with the attempted murder of Mrs Bernadette McAliskey and her husband Michael.

Mrs McAliskey, the former MP Bernadette Devlin, and her husband are still seriously ill in hospital after being shot several times at their home near Coalisland, co Tyrone, on Friday.

IRA killing: The Provisional IRA admitted the murder of a man whose hooded body was found yesterday in a country road a few hundred yards inside the Northern Ireland border in south Armagh (Christopher Thomas writes).

The statement issued in Dublin said: "Maurice Gilvary admitted before a court martial composed of his peers that he passed on information [to the police] on an on-going basis over a period of years."

Extradition refused: A district court in Den Bosch, Netherlands, rejected a request for the extradition of Mr Patrick Magee, wanted by Scotland Yard for questioning about Provisional IRA bombing in England. It ruled that there was not sufficient evidence to grant extradition.—AP and Reuter.

Jeweller shot dead in raid

Mr Arthur Shindler, a jeweller, was shot dead yesterday after at least three armed men, posing as telephone engineers, called at his shop in Whitechapel High Street, east London.

His body was found near the safe in the basement. It is believed he was killed because he refused to open the safe.

Mr Shindler, who was in his 60s, had earlier complained to the Post Office, about a faulty telephone.

After the shooting the men fled in a hired car, which was involved in an accident minutes later.

The police are concentrating their inquiries on interviewing telephone engineers.

Labour Party £500,000 in deficit as some unions fail to pay their affiliation fees on time

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

The Labour Party is undergoing a new financial crisis and its leaders are being advised to impose a freeze on recruitment of staff at the party's Walworth Road headquarters in London. That unprecedented measure is pending as trade union infighting over next Saturday's special party conference reaches its peak.

A deficit of £500,000 has been run up in the past few months as most of the trade unions who pledged to pay their massive affiliation fees for 1981 on time have failed to live up to their promises.

The party's staff negotiations committee, dominated by Mr Norman Atkinson, MP, the treasurer, will next week recommend to the national executive that all recruitment should be halted and posts should not be filled when they become vacant. Only clerical staffing would be exempt.

A loan of £250,000 made available by the unions shortly before Christmas at a preferential interest rate has been spent on paying staff wages, and the party is now being obliged to go back to the Co-operative Bank to borrow at an interest rate of 19 per cent.

Trade union leaders whose missing affiliation fees have contributed to the crisis will meet on Friday night to determine the outcome of block voting on an electoral college to choose the party leader. The proposal most favoured appears to be the moderates' package giving the Parliamentary Labour Party half the electoral college votes, with the rest equally divided between affiliated trade unions and constituency parties.

But left-wing union leaders are still determined to push for a formula giving a third of the votes to each of those powerful groups. The Transport and General Workers' Union is to cast its 1,250,000 block vote for that line-up, although its leaders may shift marginally in the horse-trading expected at the Wembley conference.

A counter-meeting of right-wing unions, involving the Association of Professional Executive, Clerical and Computer Staff, the electricians and the engineering workers, aimed at producing a trade union formula to scupper the whole electoral college exercise, is being arranged. It will be held in a Bloomsbury hotel in the next few days.

Their efforts were given a stimulus yesterday by the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, whose executive council decided to vote only for its own policy of giving an outright majority in any electoral college to Labour MPs. The union's 850,000 block vote is to be withheld from voting on any other formula, even though that could deliver the conference to the left.

The union's delegates to the conference, who muster a marginal militant majority on some political issues, are to meet on Friday night to decide their final position. By then a right-wing option putting the whole business off to the full party conference in Brighton in October may be available.

But the one issue that will not go away is the party's virtual bankruptcy. There are difficulties over £80,000 of unpaid rates due to Southwark council, and an appeal against that assessment is due to be lodged soon.

The unions whose affiliation fees should have been paid already are arguing that the economic recession has affected their membership levels and finances. Their political funds are at a low level, and a Conservative Party campaign in the north of England has been cited as the cause of a fall in members paying the political levy.

To recoup the party's fortunes, Labour leaders are planning to run a national lottery on May Day. A first prize of £100,000 has been suggested, but that is regarded by seasoned party workers as hopelessly optimistic.

Labour's long-term finances are in even greater jeopardy because the unions have refused to endorse a proposal that they should lift affiliation fees from the new level of 40p to 50p a head from January, 1982.



"The Holy Family with St John, St Elizabeth and six putti" which is to be sold to meet Chatsworth running costs.

Chatsworth Poussin to be sold

By Frances Gibb

The Duke of Devonshire has been forced to sell one of the masterpieces from his famous collection at Chatsworth, a painting by the seventeenth-century French artist, Nicolas Poussin, estimated to be worth between £1m and £2m.

The painting, "The Holy Family with St John, St Elizabeth and six putti", which has been in the Devonshire collection since 1761, is being sold to meet running costs on the estate. It is the first important work to be sold by the present duke.

The duke confirmed last night that the trustees of the Chatsworth settlement had considered a sale to "preserve Chatsworth for posterity". He said he could not comment further until the official announcement.

Important works by Poussin, the founding father of classical landscape (1594-1665), rarely appear on the market. This one, dating from about 1650, is considered a first-class example of the artist's mature work.

The duke has offered the painting first to museums and galleries in the hope that a private treaty sale may be arranged and the work can be acquired for the nation.

But galleries will be hard put to raise the kind of sum the painting is considered worth, and it is likely that it may have to be sold at auction.

The work is now at Christie's, who are expected to make an announcement on Friday.

The painting was shown recently at the Royal Academy as part of the "Treasures from Chatsworth" exhibition, which previously toured six American museums, so potential American buyers have had a chance to view it.

Professor Anthony Blunt, a leading authority on the artist and author of the Academy catalogue, said yesterday that he was very sorry it was to be sold.

"It is an extremely important work. It is not the most popular kind of Poussin, because it does not have the same romantic appeal as, for instance, 'The Shepherds in Arcadia', but it is one of the very remarkable masterpieces of his later classical period."

One of the highlights of the Chatsworth collection, it was a work which British galleries would wish to acquire. "But I doubt whether English museums would be able to afford it. There would certainly be a lot American interest."

The only galleries that could even attempt to buy it are the National Gallery, which already has a good collection of Poussins, and the Manchester City Art Gallery. The latter is known to be interested.

Call to refer 'Times' bid to mergers commission

By Fred Emery
Political Editor

Appealing to the Prin… Minister to protect what … called "some of the gre… newspapers of this country… Mr Michael Foot, the Lead… of the Opposition, yesterd… sought in vain Mrs Margar… Thatcher's undertaking to ref… any bid for Times Newspape… by Mr Rupert Murdoch to t… Monopolies and Mergers Co… mission.

He also pressed Mrs Thatch… during Commons question tim… to undertake to have the co… mission produce its report wi… extreme urgency in view of t… International Thomson Orga… sation's decision to cease pu… lishing the papers in March.

Mrs Thatcher would not co… mit herself. She said that s… did not think it advisable … state what the Governme… would do before any applic… tion to transfer ownership h… been received, and none h… been received. Mr John Biffe… Secretary of State for Trad… upon receiving such an applic… tion, would have to consid… the newspaper merger pr… visions of the Fair Trading A… 1973.

When pressed, Mrs Thatch… would only say: "We sh… apply the law as it is, a… apply it precisely."

Mr Foot spoke of the "stro… rumours" that *The Times* a… *The Sunday Times* might … acquired by Mr Murdoch. Wh… Lord Thomson of Fleet acquir… *The Times* alone that had be… referred to the commission a… pledges of independence h… to be given.

Reference to the commissi… under the 1973 Act is not au… matic, although Mr Foot's su… porters say they believe … representation will have giv… the Government little choi… The criteria explained by t… Department of Trade indic… that an exception would ha… to be made if any bid by … Murdoch was not to be referr… to the commission. The matt… is in the discretion of … Biffen, who is not due ba… from India until next Friday.

One point is clear. Any b… by Mr Murdoch, who owns *Th… Sun* and the *News of the Worl…* would require Mr Biffen's co… sent. And, since the combin… average circulation of th… merged newspapers would e… ceed 500,000, under the Act th… consent would normally … given only after reference … the commission.

The exceptions arise on … question of urgency and ec… nomic viability. If Mr Biffe… was satisfied that the new… papers in the transfer were no… economic as going concerns an… that the case was urgent, … could give his consent withou… reference to the commission.

Talks progress: Mr Gord… Brunton, chief executive … Thomson British Holdings, sa… last night that talks were goi… on with various people and … hoped the negotiations woul… be completed by the end … the month (the Press Associ… tion reports).

Mr Harold Evans, the edit… of *The Sunday Times*, said … Monday that his "inspired—… rather inside—guess" was th… a decision had already bee… taken to sell the papers to … Murdoch.

However, Mr Michael Cu… lipp, a spokesman for Thoms… British Holdings, said: "Ever… body, including Mr Evans, … a bit ahead of themselves. W… are still negotiating with mor… than one person and no de… has been made.

"Mr Evans is just guessin… There will be a proper pre… conference when we have com… pleted our talks. There is … chance that it will be th… week."

Parliamentary report, page

BBC strike by actors threatened

By Kenneth Gosling

Equity, the actors' union, said yesterday that it would call on its BBC members to strike unless the corporation increased a pay offer.

The union has called a mass meeting of members for February 1 at the Shaftesbury Theatre, in London. Mr Peter Plouviez, general secretary, said: "We believe we are now in the most serious position we have yet been in, not only in these negotiations but throughout our dealings with the BBC in relation to television."

The BBC said last night that the offer, of 12.5 per cent, was a fair one.

When negotiations began last November Equity asked for 30 per cent and it recently rejected 8 per cent; yesterday its council met to consider and then reject the latest offer, which would raise the minimum from £125 a week to £141. Mr Plouviez said a dispute was now possible over as little as £180,000.

"That would not narrow the gap with independent television but we would be willing to maintain the present disparity for a year in view of the financial position of the corporation and the country", he said.

Mr Plouviez said that many familiar faces on television, were working for £250 to £300 a week for not much more than 25 or 30 weeks a year.

Dispute cuts sailings at eight British ports

By Donald Macintyre
Labour Reporter

The merchant navy dispute intensified sharply yesterday, with ferry and freight services halted or curtailed at eight British ports as the National Union of Seamen extended its strategy of unannounced strikes.

The General Council of British Shipping said that the dispute was becoming increasingly grave; the number of ships delayed because of the dispute had risen from 60 on Monday to 104, of which 28 were in foreign ports. That is the biggest increase since the dispute began before Christmas.

The council indicated that member companies were operating its guidelines by begining to hold back some of the pay of seamen who were delaying ships, but it did not give details.

The state-owned Sealink company whose cross-Channel and Irish services were badly disrupted yesterday, formally asked local union representatives to give the management notice whenever they intend to take action disrupting passenger services.

The company is understood to be considering stopping the pay of ferry employees during disruptive action unless they accede to the request. Negotiations at port level on the request will resume this morning.

The Sealink move came after the company was forced to provide overnight accommodation, partly on board ship and partly in local hotels, late on Monday night when the Portsmouth to the Channel Islands service was cancelled.

The unions' central disputes committee is expected to consider further intensification of the disputes at a meeting on Friday. Before that, services from Stranraer are expected to be disrupted, with probable additional stoppages in Cairnryan, Dover and Felixstowe.

Other services were disrupted by strikes lasting between six and 36 hours, affecting vessels operating out of Southampton, Folkestone, Portsmouth, Fishguard, Holyhead, Liverpool and Heysham. Sealink services using Belgian and French crews were operating normally.

Townsend Thoresen said that there were strikes on board the ferry Viking Valiant and the freight ship Viking Trader, both in port at Le Havre.

The National Union of Seamen said that the line's Viking Venturer, operating from Southampton to Cherbourg, and the Manx Viking, operating between Heysham and Douglas, Isle of Man, had also been affectetd, as had been the Dragon, a P & O ferry operating out of Southampton.

The Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service was remaining in contact with both sides yesterday, but there was no prospect of a meeting between the management and union.

Yorkshire MP faces first local party reselection

From Ronald Kershaw
Leeds

The first reselection conference by a constituency Labour Party will be at Rother Valley, South Yorkshire, where Mr Peter Hardy is the member of Parliament. If the Yorkshire regional Labour Party arrangements go according to plan, submission for reselection will take place in the late spring, Mr Harold Sims, regional party secretary, said.

There are 52 constituencies in the region, and 33 have Labour MPs. Mr Sims said that all party organizations and affiliated organizations who were entitled to nominate candidates were being informed. The sitting MP would automatically be nominated and shortlists would be prepared in the next few months.

The Rother Valley constituency is of particular interest because it was traditionally a mining seat until Mr Hardy, a schoolmaster, was elected in 1970.

Mr Sims hopes the timetable for all his constituencies will be endorsed by the party's national executive committee before August. It may be that many MPs will be reselected without the complication of new nominations, but the process of advertising reselection and asking for nominations will have to be gone through. It is likely that several reselection conferences will be organized to take place simultaneously.

Tank escapes cuts

Continued from page 1

the Trident missile as the successor to Polaris. That decision, he said, had been taken, announced and would remain. It was the most cost-effective way to provide for our strategic nuclear deterrent.

Savings would be made by selling or scrapping some of the older ships of the Royal Navy and HMS Bulwark would be disposed of about six months earlier than planned. During the next year the Vulcan force and the Shackleton airborne early warning aircraft would be run down ahead of schedule. The Vulcan squadrons would be reduced from seven to six during the coming year. There would also be an accelerated rundown of the Canberra photographic reconnaissance squadrons.

Mr Nott said the forward warship construction programme would be slowed while logistic support road vehicles, Jetstream and Hawk aircraft orders would be deferred. The Sky Flash Mark 1 missile would continue, but instead of the Sky Flash Mark 2 there would be a programme to develop a new technology for short-range air-to-air missiles.

To save overheads, No 41 Commando would be merged with the other Commandos, but that would not reduce the overall strength of the Royal Marines. Other savings would come from disbanding the Naval Communications Squadron at Lee-on-the-Solent while the extra Lightning squadron would not be formed as planned. A squadron would be found out of training units which could rapidly be made operational.

Mr Nott emphasized the importance placed by the Government on maintaining the front-line capability of Britain's defence forces.

Tornado unaffected: The big procurement programmes, including those for Trident, the Challenger tank and the Tornado aircraft emerge unscathed, to nobody's great surprise (our Defence Correspondent writes).

Among the real surprises is the abandonment of last year's plan to form an extra squadron of Lightning fighters.

The decision to reduce the number of Shackleton aircraft and to drop one of the seven Vulcan squadrons earlier than planned will also create gaps in the RAF's inventory until the Nimrod and Tornado aircraft are introduced.

The RAF and the Royal Navy have borne the brunt of the spending cuts and particularly the Navy, which is unhappy about the effects on its capability.

Mr Nott would not be drawn upon the replacement plans for the Harrier and Jaguar aircraft. A decision on both is long overdue.

Parliamentary report, page 9

Father wins plea over music lessons

A father has won the right to challenge the legal right of a council to stop paying for music lessons for his two daughters. Mr Eric William Jones, of Stanton Fields, Bishampton, Pershore, Hereford and Worcestershire, was granted permission by Mr Justice Woolf in London yesterday to apply for a judicial review.

He is complaining of the failure of Hereford and Worcester local education authority to continue to provide free clarinet tuition for his daughter Helen at Pershore High School and violin tuition for his daughter Ruth at St Nicholas Church of England School.

Letters, page 15

Some council houses to be for job seekers

By John Witherow

The Prime Minister's appeal for people to search for work away from their homes has been met in part with the announcement that from April 1 some council houses will be reserved for those moving to jobs in new areas.

The National Mobility Scheme aims to assist people moving away from centres of unemployment. The project was drawn up by Mr John Stanley, Minister for Housing and Construction, with the assistance of committees representing local authorities.

The Department of the Environment said that about twenty counties have agreed arrangements for moves between districts in the same county.

A small office headed by Mr Ben Affleck is being set up to work out procedures for moves across county boundaries. The scheme envisages making available 1 per cent of council houses for those moving between counties, and according to the Government that would mean up to 300 properties a year.

Our Education Correspondent writes: Confirmation that young people are unwilling to move away from home to find work came in a report, published yesterday, of a research project involving young people aged 17 in Newcastle upon Tyne, Berwick-upon-Tweed and London.

Despite high unemployment and scarcity of jobs, only 9 of 250 young people involved in the study, which was funded by the EEC, moved away for work.

In each case accommodation was provided by the employer. One reason why so few moved was that unless the employer did provide accommodation it was almost impossible for a young person who wanted to work away from home to find somewhere to live, Youthaid, which carried out the research during 1978-79, said.

The unemployment rate among the young people was 12 per cent in Newcastle, 11 per cent in London and 8 per cent in Berwick. The proportion of girls unemployed was consistently higher than that of boys, ranging from 15 per cent in Newcastle to 12 per cent in Berwick.

Labour EEC plan infantile, says Mrs Williams

By Our Political Editor

In another attack on the decision by the 1980 Labour conference to seek withdrawal from the EEC, Mrs Shirley Williams said last night that it was infantile to believe that Britain could negotiate a trading agreement that would give equal access to the Community after withdrawal.

She said that on the issue the Labour Party "is reluctant to live in the real world", just as the Conservatives behaved as if economics were divorced from politics and society.

Britain could not withdraw from the EEC "without massive damage to jobs and to what remains of our industry". But the deeper tragedy, she said in a speech to Cambridge Fabians, was that the Labour decision would destroy, in the Community, the only successful base for new international initiatives.

The European Community had sympathy for the Brandt Commission's proposals to harness the unemployed resources of the northern hemisphere with the needs of the south, and with Herr Brandt's initiative to try to negotiate a mutual withdraw lof European nuclear weapons.

"Does anyone believe that Britain, economically weak and politically isolated from the European Community and from the many Commonwealth countries who want us to stay in, would be followed by the world's powers if she attempted such policies on her own? Those are the politics of delusion", she said.

Polish sociologist in talks with MPs and TUC

By Our Political Staff

Dr Janik Strzelecki, a sociologist in the Department of Futurology in the Academy of Sciences, Warsaw, who is a member of the advisory board of Solidarity, the Polish trade union organization, had talks yesterday with members of the TUC at Congress House, and earlier with Conservative MPs and trade unionists at Central Office.

On Monday he had a discussion with Labour Party officials and visited the House of Lords. He also paid calls on the Tavistock Institute and Chatham House.

Dr Strzlecki is in London on a visit arranged by the Central Office of Information. His object has been to give trade union and political organizations first-hand information about the activities of Solidarity



£50m Ford price-cut drive

By Peter Waymark

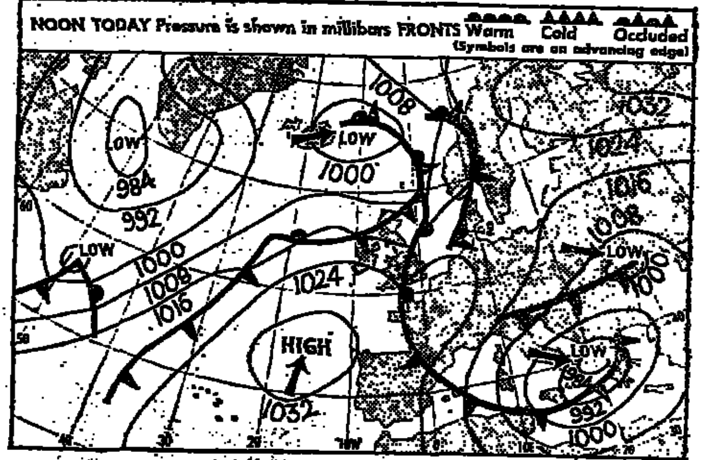
Ford today announces a new round of price cuts and improved specifications, worth together up to nearly £300 a car, in an attempt to push its market share in Britain to a record 35 per cent this year.

The latest price reductions and added value affect all Ford models except the new Escort range and come just over a month after the launching of low price Popular versions of the Fiesta hatchback.

Ford estimates that the total cost of the programme is £50m but hopes to recoup part of the money through extra sales. Its target for the year is 495,000 cars, an increase over 1980 of just over 30,000.

Back to work: Production of Escort cars was nearly back to normal yesterday as more than 4,000 hourly paid workers returned to the body and assembly sections at Ford's Halewood plant after being laid off for two days

Weather forecast and recordings



NOON TODAY

b—blue sky; bc—half clouded; c—cloudy; o—overcast; f—fog; d—drizzle; h—hail; m—mist; r—rain; s—snow; th—thunderstorm; p—showers; pr—periodical rain with snow. Wind speed in mph.

Today

Sun rises: 7.54 am. Sun sets: 4.31 pm
Moon sets: 8.33 am. Moon rises: 6.02 pm
Last quarter: January 28.

Lighting up: 5.01 pm to 7.23 am. High water: London Bridge 2.20 am, 7m; 2.43 pm, 7.1m. Avonmouth 7.52 am, 13.5m; 8.17 pm, 13.4m. Dover 11.37 am, 6.5m. Hull 6.56 am, 7.3m; 7.09 pm, 7.5m. Liverpool 11.54 am, 9.4m. 1ft=0.3048m 1m=3.2808ft

A warm front will clear E Britain, leaving a mild but moist W airstream over all parts.

Forecasts for 6 am to midnight:

London, SE England, East Anglia: Rather cloudy with outbreaks of rain and drizzle dying out; wind S to SW, moderate; max temp 9°C (48°F).

Central S, E, Central N England, Midlands: A little rain or drizzle at first, bright intervals developing; wind SW, light or moderate; maximum temp 10°C (50°F).

Channel Islands, SW, NW England, Wales, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland: Rather cloudy with some drizzle, coastal fog patches; wind SW, moderate; maximum temp 10°C (50°F).

NE England, Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, N Ireland: Rain in places, also bright or sunny intervals; wind SW, moderate; maximum temp 10°C (50°F).

Glasgow, central Highlands, Argyll: Mostly cloudy with occasional rain or drizzle, some bright or clear intervals; wind SW, moderate; maximum temp 9°C (48°F).

Moray Firth, NE, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Rain at first, becoming brighter but with showers; wind SW, fresh; maximum temp 9°C (48°F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Friday: Mild and becoming mostly dry with some sunshine.

Sea Passages: S North Sea, Strait of Dover, English Channel (E): Wind SW, moderate, increasing to fresh; sea slight, becoming moderate.

St George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind W, fresh; sea, moderate.

Yesterday

London: Temp: max, 6 am to 6 pm, 7°C (45°F); min, 6 pm to 6 am, 5°C (41°F). Humidity, 6 pm, 76 per cent. Rain, 24hr to 6 pm, a trace. Sun, 24hr to 6 pm, 3.2hr. Bar, mean sea level, 6 pm, 1,025 millibars, rising.
1,000 millibars=29.53in.

WEATHER REPORTS YESTERDAY MIDDAY: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun; sn, snow.

		C	F			C	F			C	F			C	F
Akrotiri	f	14	57	Florence	fog	5	41	Luxembrg	f	2	36	Paris	c	5	41
Amsterdm	c	2	36	Funchal	f	17	63	Madrid	s	10	50	Reykjavik	c	2	36
Athens	c	18	64	Geneva	f	7	45	Majorca	s	17	63	Rome	c	9	48
Barbados	s	29	84	Gibraltar	s	18	64	Malaga	s	20	68	Ronldswy	c	6	43
Barcelona	c	−2	28	Guernsey	f	8	46	Malta	c	13	55	S Frncisco	f	24	75
Beirut	c	15	59	Helsinki	sn	−4	25	Miami	c	22	72	Stockholm	sn	−18	0
Berlin	sn	0	32	Innsbruck	c	0	32	Montreal	s	−10	14	Tel Aviv	s	16	61
Bermuda	c	18	64	Istanbul	c	7	45	Moscow	sn	−8	18	Toronto	c	−4	24
Biarritz	r	12	54	Jersey	f	8	46	Munich	sn	−1	30	Venice	f	2	36
Brussels	f	5	41	L Palmas	s	20	68	Naples	c	17	63	Vienna	f	2	36
Budapest	c	−3	[illegible]	Lisbon	s	15	59	New York	s	5	41	Warsaw	f	0	32
Cologne	c	2	36	Locarno	c	5	41	Nice	s	15	59	Washingtn	f	13	55
Copenhgn	c	3	38	London	s	5	41	Oslo	f	−12	10	Zurich	c	1	34

Overseas selling prices
Australia $2; Austria Sch 20; Bahrain BD 0.650; Belgium B frs 35; Canaries Pes 100; Cyprus 400 mils; Denmark Dkr 6.50; Dubai Dir 7.00; Finland Mk 5; France Frs 4.50; Germany Dm 3.00; Greece Dr 50; Holland Gl 2.50; Iran IR 135; Iraq ID 0.500; Irish Republic 20p; Italy L 1100; Jordan LD 0.425; Kuwait KD 0.450; Lebanon LL 4.00; Luxembourg LF 35; Madeira Esc 50; Malta 30c; Morocco Dir 5.00; Norway Kr 6.00; Oman OR 0.700; Pakistan Rps. 10; Portugal Esc 50; Qatar QR 7.50; Saudi Arabia SR 3.25; Singapore S4.5; Spain Pes 100; Sweden Skr 5.00; Switzerland S Frs 3.00; Syria LS 5.60; Tunisia Din .450; US and Canada $1.50; UAE Dir 7.00; Yugoslavia Din 40.



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Special hospital for young man who admitted killing 26 people and 10 charges of arson

Bruce George Peter Lee, aged 20, of Hull, pleaded guilty at Leeds Crown Court yesterday to the manslaughter of 26 people and 10 charges of arson. He was ordered to be detained in a special hospital without limit of time.

The indictment took 25 minutes to be read out before Mr Justice Tudor Evans.

Mr Lee had pleaded not guilty to charges of arson and murder from June, 1973, to December, 1979. He admitted the manslaughter charges, which involved 10 fires and people aged between six months and 95 years old.

Mr Harry Ognall, QC, said that the guilty pleas to manslaughter were tendered on the basis of diminished responsibility. All the pleas were accepted by the prosecution.

After Mr Lee had pleaded, Mr Gerald Coles, QC, for the prosecution, told the judge that two medical reports about Mr Lee's mental condition would be put to the court.

With regard to the 11 charges of arson to which he had pleaded not guilty, it was not in the public interest to incur the expense of a trial in those matters, and the prosecution accepted the pleas.

Mr Coles said Mr Lee was born with a partly paralysed and deformed right arm ond was an epileptic. Nor was he a much-loved child. His mother was a prostitute and never cared for him, which caused much of his unhappiness.

Counsel said the significance of that was that in 1979 he changed his name by deed poll


Peter Lee: "Fire is my master."

to Bruce Lee, partly in admiration of the Kung-fu film actor.

Mr Lee attended school for the physically handicapped until he was 16 and spent much of his youth in care. "It was when he was in care that, he says, he was introduced to homosexual practices, which led to his downfall and discovery", Mr Coles added.

Mr Lee clearly had an animal cunning of a remarkably sharp nature. That permitted him to develop in no small scale as a fire raiser, so that for many years not only was he not caught but the fires he caused were ascribed to accidental causes.

"The sad fact is that this is his only real accomplishment in life and something he had expressed himself as being proud of", Mr Coles continued.

The first known fire causing death was on June 27, 1973, but his fire raising activities went farther back. In a statement Mr Lee had admitted setting fire to a shopping arcade causing £17,000 of damage when he was only nine years old.

Mr Coles said that after the first fire which caused death, a sort of pattern for the fires emerged, as far as his method was concerned. The choice of victims was usually motiveless, mindless and totally random, and that was one reason why detection was so difficult.

"He took to buying paraffin and wandering round feeling miserable and depressed. He carried the paraffin with him and when his fingers began to tingle he knew that he wanted to start a fire."

On only about four occasions did motive come into it, because on those occasions the people involved were those against whom he had a grudge, although those gudges were of a trivial nature.

Mr Coles said that perhaps the most appalling fire of all was on January 5, 1977. Mr Lee went to Wensley Lodge, an old men's home, which was really three houses in one. Eleven died in the blaze and six rescuers were injured.

In another statement to the police, Mr Lee had said: "I did the old blokes' home. I got a bike and off I went with my paraffin". He had added: "It was a nasty fire, a really rotten fire I did, and I knew it was going to kill people in there."

Classic product of a broken home

Detectives are convinced that the arrest and conviction of Peter George Lee has saved Hull from at least another decade of fires causing loss of life and damage to property.

There was no sign that Mr Lee's appetite for fire-raising was on the wane or that the death toll of 26 in the blazes he started had shocked him into sanity.

He was born Peter Dinsdale and called himself Bruce Lee after his kung-fu hero, and had told the police: "I am devoted to fire. Fire is my master and that is why I caused these fires."

He even quoted the Bible verse—Matthew 6, 24: "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other".

Mr Lee is the classic product of a broken home, spending years of his early life in local authority care.

In an early interview Det. supt. Ronald Sagar sympathized with him on his upbringing. Mr Lee said: "I have always known I was not dragged up along the Hessle Road . . . I was kicked from pillar to post. You were the first person to see it, and to say it."

Mr Lee's first act of arson was at the age of nine. He set fire to a shop on the Bransholme Estate, Hull.

All the fires for which he was responsible were officially filed as accidents, except for the last one, in which three children died. That was the blaze at the home of the Hastie family, in Selby Street, Hull. That, also, might have been filed as accidental but for the discovery of a scrap of paraffin-soaked paper near the scene.

Seven months of intensive investigation followed, but all leads seemed to end in blind alleys. Senior officers began to examine the background of Charles Hastie, aged 15, who died trying to rescue his brothers. They wondered whether he had been caught up in the world of homosexuals.

For six weeks detectives watched a block of lavatories in Anlaby Road, near the Hasties' home. Forty suspects were rounded up.

In the net was Peter Lee, the "oddball" often seen in Charles Hastie's company. They were interviewed by Mr Sagar, who told them: "I believe you are responsible for killing the three Hastie boys".

Each denied the allegation, until it was the turn of Mr Lee. He replied: "I did not mean it."

Mr Sagar said later: "It was our last hope, and it paid off. I was satisfied he was the one we wanted without a shadow of a doubt."

Mr Lee had become an adept and cold-hearted fire raiser. Detectives described the fires he was responsible for as "good arsons", meaning the criminal nature behind them was difficult to detect.

More than 18,000 people from the district were interviewed during the inquiry into the fire at the Hasties' home. There were no fingerprints, nothing except a piece of paper near the front door. The paper had been soaked in paraffin. That set in motion the arson inquiry.

Detectives believed paraffin had been poured through the letterbox by the fire-raiser. The police had received 123 allegations from people blaming the Hastie boys for everything and anything. But Mr Sagar could not believe that any neighbour responsible for such deaths could carry on a normal life afterwards.

When Mr Lee began to talk, the pieces fell together like a jigsaw puzzle.

Relief of plumber blamed for 11 deaths

The stigma of being the man who accidentally caused a fire in which 11 old people died was lifted from a young plumber yesterday.

Three years ago Mr Stephen Hay, aged 24, left an inquest after a coroner said he was the innocent instigator of the fire at Wensley Lodge old people's home, Hull, which Peter Lee has now confessed to starting.

It was said that Mr Hay's blow torch ignited material while he was mending a leeking pipe in the boilerhouse of the home. Mr Hay, of Mill Lane, Kirkella, Hull, felt that since then people had pointed the finger at him wherever he went.

He said: "I always knew that the fire was not my fault, but my name has been linked with it ever since. Now I can begin to live a normal life again."

Mrs Helen Hay, his mother, said: "I would never wish the hell he went through on anybody".

Another of Mr Lee's victims was Mrs Rosabell Fenton, of Lyric Close, Hull. She and her daughter, Samantha, were scarred for life in a fire started by Mr Lee. A few hours later Mrs eFnton, aged 28, lost her unborn baby.

She was in hospital three months and her husband lost a well-paid job in Holland because he had to return home to look after his family.

Mrs Fenton lived at Troutbeck House, a block of flats in Cavill Place, Hull, a few doors away from Mr Lee. She said: "I knew Lee by sight but not to speak to. I remember he had a crew-cut hairstyle, and his withered hand. He always had a sort of vacant look on his face.

"I knew him as Peter Dinsdale. Everyone used to call him 'Daft Peter'. I used to be frightened of him because of the way he looked at me.

"He put me and my daughter through something we are never going to forget. It was the most terrifying thing I have ever experienced."

There is relief in the community where Mr Lee lived during the last few months with his mother and stepfather. There is sympathy for Mrs Doreen Lee, who has moved to an address near by.

British Airways seeks 15% domestic fares increase

By Richard Ford

British Airways has applied to the Civil Aviation Authority for permission to raise domestic air fares by 15 per cent from April 1. It would be the first increase on flights in the United Kingdom for a year.

The airline said that fuel costs had risen by 30 per cent and landing charges by up to 20 per cent on domestic flights in the past year. These costs accounted for half the operating budget, compared with 15 per cent in 1973. The increase would be lower than the inflation rate for the past year.

British Airways, expecting to lose more than £100m in this financial year, has made economies and cut staff by 10 per cent in the past 18 months.

The proposed increases include the single shuttle fare between London and Belfast, up from £43 to £49, and the single shuttle from London to Glasgow, from £47 to £54. Standby fares on both routes would rise from £20 to £25. A single fare from London to Manchester would rise from £33 to £38, standby from £15 to £20.

On the possibility of other domestic carriers increasing fares, British Caledonian said yesterday it had no plans for a rise in the "spring or summer".

Dan-Air said it was considering the costs of scheduled services. It was likely that fares on flights to the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man would rise between 7½ and 10 per cent.

British Airways, which announced last week that it planned to reduce some European fares by between £19 and £40, said that comparisons could not be made between the cost of domestic and European or transatlantic flights. Landing charges in the United Kingdom were high, and domestic flights were for short distances, often with few passengers.

British Airways also announced that a new two-class service would start on routes to the Irish Republic on April 1. The single club class fare, London to Dublin, will be £55.50: tourist £49.

Concorde standby British Airways will introduce standby fares on the Concorde New York route from March 1 (the Press Association reports). At £675 one-way they will be £162 cheaper than the present first-class fare.

MPs argue for change in fish industry body

By Our Parliamentary Staff

Opponents of the proposal to create a statutory authority for the fishing industry, with eight representatives of the industry and four independent members, spent yesterday morning deploying their arguments

In the Commons standing committee on the Fisheries Bill, which sets up the new authority, MPs were still discussing Opposition amendments to reduce the authority to six independent members when the debate was adjourned

The minister in charge of the Bill, Mr Alick Buchanan-Smith, Minister of State for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, will reply then. There is no indication that he will give way on the central feature of the Bill, especially as Mr Peter Walker, the minister, believes his proposals have gained broad acceptance in the industry.

Mr Gavin Strang, Labour MP for Edinburgh, East, and opposition spokesman on fisheries, said the new authority would be much more effective and could act more cohesively on behalf of the nation and the industry if it consisted of people who were more independent

Man found with pistol outside bank

An alert was flashed to Blackpool police when David Mark McDononugh, aged 20, a club doorman, was seen with a pistol sitting in a car outside a bank, magistrates at Blackpool were told yesterday.

Two detectives took him from the car and found a replica magnum .37 pistol in a shoulder holster. The police said they were satisfied that Mr McDonough, of Loftus Avenue, Blackpool, had no criminal intent. He was bound over for two years for acting in a manner likely to cause a breach of the peace.

A Minor exhibit

The Morris Minor 1000 car which formerly belonged to the Archbishop of Canterbury and then completed the 3,000-mile Himalayan rally was officially handed over to the National Motor Museum at Beaulieu, Hampshire, yesterday.

Imposed law is not sacrosanct, Plaid says

From Tim Jones
Cardiff

Plaid Cymru's national council will be asked on Saturday to endorse a policy document which says that party members should be allowed to break the law if the party's aims cannot be achieved through normal constitutional channels.

That is one of the main recommendations of a commission of inquiry appointed to examine the party's declining fortunes. Plaid Cymru's credibility suffered badly as a result of its ill-fated devolution campaign, and its recent results in parliamentary district and borough council elections have been disappointing.

The report says: "While the party should normally operate in a constitutional way within the law, it should not regard laws imposed on us as necessarily sacrosanct, though the party should adhere to its declared total rejection of any activity likely to cause violence to persons."

Plaid Cymru should concentrate during the 1980s on fusing together the forces of nationalism, radicalism and socialism. "It was the blending of these elements into a potential dynamic force that was feared by the Tories and helped us lead to their capitulation on the fourth channel issue."

If the commission's report is endorsed the party, hitherto an amalgamation of differing political philosophies held together by a desire for self-determination, will be cast irrevocably into a socialist mould. The commission favours the establishment of workers' cooperatives, community groups and social clubs of all kinds.

That approach is clearly designed to appeal to industrial South Wales, where the party must make gains if it is ever to become a real political force in the principality.

Ticket discounts and heavy advertising revolutionize Festival Hall ratings

Hard sell makes Philharmonia top of the pops

By Martin Huckerby
Music Reporter

The orchestral popularity ratings at the Festival Hall in London seem almost certain to change substantially this year because of the Philharmonic Orchestra's success with its new subscription scheme. Last year the Philharmonia had the poorest audiences of the four independent London orchestras; this year it looks like having easily the best.

When Riccardo Muti brings Stravinsky's Rite of Spring to its shattering close on Sunday night the orchestra will have virtually sold out every concert so far this season; 12 consecutively,

In the last financial year audiences at the hall for the four orchestras averaged 73 per cent, and the Philharmonia managed only 71 per cent. But the introduction of season tickets with discounts of up to 25 per cent has meant that half of each house for the orchestra has been sold in advance.

Heavy advertising, with the aid of sponsorship from Du Maurier, and some concerts with very popular artists such as James Galway and Yehudi Menuhin, have done the rest.

Popularity may not necessarily reflect orchestral quality, since hackneyed programmes of the most popular music can guarantee high attendances, but topping the poll can make a big difference to an orchestra's financial health.

The other orchestras might be expected to envy the Philharmonia's success but there is no sign of their starting subscription schemes.

The London Philharmonic said that from September to November last year the Philharmonia was averaging just over 90 per cent paid attendances (complimentary and similar tickets make up the rest) while the other three were all about 65 per cent.

It thought the Philharmonia had probably poached audiences from the other orchestras but since then attendances had improved

The London Symphnoy said it was unlikely to start a subscription scheme at the Festival Hall, although it certainly will use such schemes when it begins regular seasons at the Barbican Arts Centre next year.

Nor did the Royal Philharmonic expect great interest in the ideas; it tried a subscription scheme some years ago and obtained 16 members

Launching a scheme is undeniably expensive and since concert attendances overall seem to have picked up in the last couple of months (the Festival Hall said they were probably running at about 1 per cent higher than last year), the pressure on orchestras to take drastic action has slackened.

Mr Christopher Bishop, managing director of the Philharmonia, was delighted that no one else wanted to compete to sell season tickets. He said his ambition was to sell the whole house every night on subscription, and then to start repeating each concert.

In London there are a series of rehearsals and then usually just one concert; elsewhere in Britain, and in most other countries where there are fewer orchestras and less competition, each concert is repeated, sometimes several times. The financial benefits are great.

Admissibility of government undertakings may be crucial issue at airfield inquiry

From John Young
Planning Reporter
Guildford

The admissibility as evidence of past government actions and undertakings appeared likely to become a crucial issue at a public inquiry which opened in Guildford, Surrey, yesterday.

The inquiry is into an application to reopen the disused Wisley airfield for general aviation. Objectors say that permission would reach promises given nearly forty years ago when the land was requisitioned for wartime use and repeated on several occasions since.

But Mr Shane Reese, the inquiry inspector, refused to say whether he would admit as evidence either letters written by government officials or the Hansard reports of debates in Parliament.

Lawyers for Guildford Borough Council, which has consistently opposed the application, will argue that government undertakings cannot be ignored, as they have all along guided both the county and district councils' planning policies.

The specific commitment to restore the land for agriculture strengthened their determination not to allow the airfield to reopen.

Mr Michael Fitzgerald, QC, for the applicants, Jenstate, sought yesterday to reassure those who feared that Wisley might develop into London's fourth airport.

There was no intention of introducing scheduled services, he said. "There will be no provision made for airlines or for those aircraft normally associated with airlines."

The company would seek a general aviation licence to serve the needs of business and corporate customers. It would be a so-called ordinary licence, as opposed to a public licence, and so would allow the airport management to control its use.

By 1985 it would be necessary to provide for the needs of those who would no longer be able to use Gatwick, Mr Fitzgerald said. The British Airports Authority had indicated that before that time it would have to "evict" many of the present general aviation users and that small aircraft movements might need to be reduced to about half the present level of 15,000 a year.

The company was conscious of the urgent need to do something to meet business aviation requirements, he added. It saw the Wisley site as ideal and it expected its proposed course of action to be held as a responsible one and as a positive step to assist the economy.

It became clear yesterday, however, that Mr Fitzgerald's claims were not shared by either the BAA or the Civil Aviation Authority.

In evidence to the inquiry to be heard later the BAA suggsts that general aviation activity at Wisley would be detrimental to the flow of air traffic using both Heathrow and Gatwick airports an dmight have an adverse effect

The CAA acknowledges that if pressure was put on general aviation at those airports then the needs of business jet users would be badly served. Wisely could help to fill that gap.

But most flights to and from Wisley would be within controlled air space shortly after take-off and until a late stage before landing.

£100,000 gift to aid research

From John Chartres
Manchester

A cheque for £100,000 to help to establish a fellowship for research into crippling diseases was handed over yesterday to the acting Vice-Chancellor of Manchester University, Professor Dennis Welland.

Sir Harry Platt, aged 94, Professor Emeritus of Orthopaedic Surgery at the university, after whom the fellowship fund is being named, expressed pleasure that such research would be undertaken in the part of England that he regarded as the birthplace of modern orthopaedic surgery. The research fellow will operate within the university's orthopaedic surgery department at Hope Hospital, Salford.

The cheque was presented by General Sir Victor FitzGeorge-Balfour, chairman of Action Research, and it is likely to be followed by a target of at least £50,000 from an appeal directed mainly at industry in the North-west, launched yesterday by Sir George Kenyon, treasurer of Manchester University.

HOME NEWS

Kent's 12·3% rate rise bodes ill for Mr Heseltine's hopes

By Christopher Warman
Local Government Correspondent

Kent County Council announced yesterday a rate precept increase of 12.3 per cent for 1981-82, giving a clear indication that general increases are likely to be substantially above the levels hoped for by the Government.

The increase, which will mean a rate rise of 14.7 per cent for Kent householders if the district councils in the county raise their rates by a similar amount, conflicts with the Government's inflation allowance of rises of about 7 per cent, made up of 6 per cent for pay and 11 per cent for prices.

Since Kent, the first to set its rate, has followed government spending guidelines on spending cuts—in fact it has set a budget £6m below its entitlement under the grant-related spending assessment—and has benefited from the new block grant, the indications are that rate rises generally will be well above the predictions of Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment.

After his announcement of the rate-support grant last month, using the new block grant system, Mr Heseltine suggested that if councils followed the Government's guidelines rate increases should be very small, even nil.

In general the counties did well from the grant settlement at the expense of the cities, where much larger increases are expected.

But councils throughout the country have become anxious as their treasurers work out what is needed, and an emergency meeting of the joint consultative council on local government finance is to be held tomorrow to discuss the matter.

The erratic workings of the new system are illustrated by the likely rate increases in other county councils. For Cambridgeshire the increase is understood to be about 10 per cent, with a little spending over the assessment; Hertfordshire is likely to put its precept up by 9 per cent, spending £3.4m over its assessment; Somerset by 6 per cent with an overspending of up to £2m; and Buckinghamshire by 13 to 15 per cent, spending £9m over the assessment.

In the past two years Kent has cut its county council staff of about 50,000 by 3,000 without compulsory redundancy, and now has a policy of careful scrutiny before filling any vacancy.

Sir John Grugeon, leader of the council, said yesterday that the budget reflected the 3 per cent cut in spending asked for by the Government. "We are moving steadily and rightly into a policy of retrenchment", he said, "looking at new ways of solving old problems at lower cost."

Pressure for safeguard in mental health Bill

By Lucy Hodges

MIND, the mental health pressure group, is fighting for a safeguard it considers vital to patients to be included in the new mental health Bill being prepared in Whitehall.

The issue concerns a patient's right to refuse treatment, which MIND thinks is one of the most important aspects of any re-drafting of mental health law.

The group is meeting Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Social Services, on Monday to press for the White Paper's commitment on consent to treatment to be included in any new law.

The Royal College of Psychiatrists is known to be unhappy about the proposal on consent to treatment in the White Paper produced in 1978 by the former Labour government. That said hazardous, irreversible or not fully established treatment could not be given without the consent of the patient, except to save life.

Even when the patient did consent, treatment might be given only with the agreement of an outside review body.

The White Paper said that a second opinion would come from a many-discipline panel established by the area health authority and it should be sought when there was any doubt about whether a particular treatment was dangerous, irreversible or not fully established.


Photograph by Brian Harris

A hearse in Downing Street yesterday carrying a petition for a rise in the £30 death grant.

Hostage 'shot trying to protect friend'

By Stewart Tendler
Crime Reporter

One of the hostages in the Iranian Embassy siege in London told a jury at the Central Criminal Court yesterday that he was shot as he tried to protect a friend from terrorist gunfire when members of the Special Air Service Regiment attacked the building.

Mr Akmed Dadgar, a diplomat, broke down as he recalled the incident and his injuries. The man he tried to save died.

A few minutes after the shooting, the court was told, one of the terrorists was shot by the SAS as he clutched a hand grenade. Others who took part in the shooting were killed later by the SAS as they sat against a wall. One received multiple wounds and the other died from a bullet in the back of the neck.

Mr Dadgar, giving evidence on the fourth day of the trial of Fowzi Nejad, aged 23, who has pleaded not guilty to two charges of murder, said three gunmen entered the room where the hostages were.

The terrorists closed the door and began firing. Mr Dadgar added: "As soon as I saw them shooting I tried to cover my friend". He and Mr Ali Akbar Samadzadeh, his friend and a student who worked part-time at the embassy, attempted to duck down behind chairs as the terrorists sprayed the hostages.

Mr Dadgar, who entered the court with the aid of a walking stick, told Mr Justice Park that he received one bullet through the lung, another just below the heart and one in each hip. At that point he slumped back saying: "I am not sorry for myself". Later the court was told that Mr Samadzadeh died.

After the shooting, Mr Dadgar said, the hostages implored the gunmen to surrender. One of them, not Mr Nejad, tried to use a hand grenade as a hostage told him to stop.

After the SAS arrived, he said, he saw the gunmen sitting by a wall. "They were killed by the SAS", he added.

A statement read to the court from Mr Vahid Khabaz said that shortly before the end of the siege one of the terrorists wrote a note to Police Constable Trevor Lock, the policeman captured by the terrorists, in which he said he was going to escape and save the hostages, and asked for a safe conduct.

Mr Richard DuCann, QC, for the defence, said that it was admitted that Faisal, the second in command of the terrorists, was shot by the SAS. He said the men ran out of the room where the hostages were held still holding a hand grenade and had been shot.

The trial continues today.

Seat on pay body for non-striking teachers

By Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent

The Government's much-leaked decision to give the Professional Association of Teachers a seat on the Burnham Committee, the national negotiating body on teachers' pay, was announced in the Commons yesterday by Mr Mark Carlisle, Secretary of State for Education and Science.

He also said he was increasing the number of representatives of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers from six to seven.

Those changes still leave the National Union of Teachers with half the seats on the 32-member teachers' panel. The National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education, which retains its single seat, almost always votes with the NUT, so that union will retain an overall majority.

Mr Fred Jarvis, general secretary of the NUT, said that it was clear all along that the Professional Association of Teachers, which refuses to take part in any strike, would be included on the committee "for purely political reasons". In his view the association, which has 20,000 members, was too insignificant to merit a seat.

The association will be present at the meeting today of the Burnham teachers panel, the first meeting in the new pay round. It will recommend a 6 per cent pay rise for teachers from April 1, plus 2 per cent from September 1.

"We are making this realistic recommendation to protect the jobs of our members and to offer some hope of employment to student teachers", Mr Peter Dawson, the association's general secretary, said. Anything above the 6 per cent allowed for by the Government would result in further teacher redundancies, he said.

The local authorities have not yet decided what they will offer the 470,000 teachers. Individual authorities have suggested everything from minus 1 per cent to 6 per cent. It is most unlikely that they would go higher than that.

It has been estimated that every 1 per cent increase in the teachers' salary bill of £3,550m could cost about 4,500 teachers' jobs.

Four men deny conspiracy to corrupt morals

Four men pleaded not guilty at the Central Criminal Court yesterday to charges of conspiring to corrupt morals by publishing a contact sheet.

They are: Thomas O'Carroll, aged 34, a former information officer at the Open University, of Loval Street, Newport Pagnell, Buckinghamshire; David Wade, aged 37, a lorry driver, of Brooke Road, Stoke Newington, London; John Parratt, aged 32, a hot dog seller, of Upper Richmond Road, Putney, London, and Michael Dagnall, aged 35, a teacher of Hounslow Avenue, Totton, Southampton.

They and two other men, Mr David Grove, who is dead, and Mr Keith Hose, who is out of the country, were said to have been on the controlling body of the Paedophile Information Exchange from 1976 until 1978.

The trial was adjourned until today.

Chancellor apologizes to taxpayer aged 92

From Our Correspondent
Ludlow

A retired Herefordshire clergy man aged 92 who was accused by the Inland Revenue of tax-dodging is being given a rebate because he had paid too much tax.

The Rev Conway Davies, who now lives in Kingswood Hall Hospital, Kingston, has received a personal apology from Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer.

The tax inspector had alleged that Mr Davies failed to declare £1,500 in fees for officiating at services, such as weddings and funerals, while working as a locum.

In fact Mr Davies who retired 21 years ago, has not officiated for many years. His son, Prebendary John Davies, vicar of Peterchurch, Herefordshire, said yesterday that his father had been caused considerable distress.

For some time he forgot to send in any tax returns. "The Revenue assumed that he had been working and accused him of earning money for services.

"He would have had to take wedding services all day long to earn £1,500, and the tax office knew his age, so the demand was ridiculous.

"The Revenue threatened to distrain to recover the money, and that caused great distress. After investigation he is being given a rebate for paying too much tax".

His case was taken up by Mr Peter Temple-Morris, MP for Leominster, who wrote direct to Sir Geoffrey. Apologizing, the Chancellor says that in view of Mr Davies's age the tax officer would have been more reasonable to assume that he was no longer working.

Offering "my sincere apologies for the worry inadvertently caused", the Chancellor said the Inland Revenue had no desire to harass Mr Davies.

Pension rise may be cut below rate of inflation

By Pat Healy
Social Services Correspondent

Pensions rose last November by 1 per cent more than the rate of inflation since the previous pension increase, the December retail prices index figures have confirmed.

That will pave the way for the Government to implement its proposal to reduce the pensions increase due next November by 1 per cent below the estimated inflation rate.

If the Government does go ahead, it will mean a new Bill, possibly before the Budget, and a political argument, since pensions rose by about £1 a week less for a single person and £2 a week less for a married couple than they would have done under previous legislation.

The Government's intention was announced by Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, who said in November that because of a more rapid decrease in the inflation rate there had been an "over-provision" of an estimated 1 per cent in the pensions increase that month. It was proposed to deduct that from the 1981 increase.

Confirmation of the inflation rate between the last two pension increases had to wait for the December prices figures because 54 weeks elapsed between them. That meant that the November figures alone were not sufficient to confirm the inflation rate at the time of the last increase.

In addition, the November pensions increase was lower because the Government changed the law to drop the link with earnings increases and refused to make good the shortfall the previous year.

Both points will be raised with MPs in what is expected to be a mass rally outside Parliament on March 4, which has been designated "national pensioners' day" by the TUC-sponsored National Pensioners Convention.

Left-handedness in boys linked with breech births

From a Staff Reporter
Manchester

A research worker at Manchester University Institute of Science and Technology has found indications that the most probable causes of left-handedness are breech delivery of a male child or a woman aged 39 or over giving birth for the first time.

An examination of records of births to 2,670 women at St Mary's Hospital, Manchester, in 1971 has shown that while boys are more likely to be left-handed than girls (15.9 per cent, against 13.6 per cent), as many as 40 per cent of boys born by breech delivery were left-handed, although that method of delivery had no significant effect on girls.

The other outstanding finding was that 43 per cent of first children of both sexes born to women aged 39 or over were left-handed.

The research was carried out by Miss Carole Jeffery while working for her MSc degree. It was summarized in a paper written in collaboration with Dr James Smart, of Manchester University department of child health, and Professor Bernard Richards, of the computation department of Manchester University Institute of Science and Technology.

Liberal urges Labour dissidents to act

By Fred Emery
Political Editor

A sharp reminder that Liberals see themselves as the cutting edge of any new alliance with social democrats was given last night by Mr Alan Beith, the Liberal Chief Whip. And he suggested that if the "big names" among Labour dissidents did not soon make up their minds, they would find that constituency supporters had already joined the Liberals.

Speaking at Derby, Mr Beith conveyed the disgruntlement shared by senior Liberals that last weekend's opinion poll had been widely seen as acclaiming Mrs Shirley Williams's leadership. In fact, the poll produced its leading 31 per cent for an alliance between the Liberals and a social democratic grouping led by Mrs Williams, which is a joint venture.

Mr Beith pointed to 50 seats where Liberals, now in second place, were within reach of victory. "There are no seats which any new social democratic party looks at all likely to win", he remarked. "The potential strength of any new social democratic group is therefore heavily dependent on how many Labour MPs are prepared to make the break, and he went on: "We are not prepared to see that cutting edge blunted by badly thought out, last minute schemes. Those who share our determination to change British politics for the better must now ask themselves the basic question, can a new grouping add to the number of parliamentary seats which Liberals can gain for the cause?

Letters, page 13

Old Vic actor disappears

By Martin Huckerby
Theatre Reporter

The Old Vic Theatre has run into trouble again. It has had to postpone the opening of its production of Vanbrugh's Restoration comedy, *The Relapse*, because one of the actors has disappeared.

Previews of the play were due to start last night, but on Monday the theatre received a telegram from Barry Woolgar, who was due to play Loveless, one of the leading roles, which said: "I can't go on—cannot cope—have gone". As a result last night's and tonight's performances were cancelled and the first night was postponed until next Tuesday.

The Old Vic has no idea where the actor has gone, nor has his agent. The telegram was sent from Heathrow airport.

So the theatre has found a new actor for the part, Richard Kay, who is the younger brother of Mr David Kay, the company's vice-chairman. He is hurriedly learning the role, ready for the first preview tomorrow night.

The Old Vic said yesterday that it was aware that Mr Woolgar had been under some strain, but had not realized that anything was seriously wrong.

British Movement 'quartermaster' jailed

From Our Correspondent
Birmingham

A member of the extreme right-wing British Movement who stored guns and ammunition at his parents' farm and distributed racialist stickers was jailed for seven years by a judge at Birmingham Crown Court yesterday.

Roderick Lewis Roberts, aged 27, of Central Avenue, Longbridge, Birmingham, was said by the prosecution to have been the quartermaster for a 20-strong branch of the British Movement in the West Midlands.

He pleaded guilty to 10 charges of possessing firearms and ammunition, an arson charge arising from an attack with a smoke device on a Job Centre office in Birmingham, and was found guilty of illegally acquiring a Mauser pistol and conspiracy to stir up racial hatred.

Mr Anthony Barker, for the prosecution, said that weapons, including a Sten gun, an anti-riot gun, revolvers and pistols, were found in a pigsty at Spetchley, Worcestershire, the home of Mr Roberts's parents.

Harvey Stock, aged 40, of Woodbrooke Road, Bournville, Birmingham, who was described as the group's press officer, received a two-year prison sentence, suspended for two years, for conspiring to stir up racial hatred and arson.

Another British Movement member, Robert Giles, aged 25, of Church Street, Bicester, Oxfordshire, who told detectives he believed in the principles and teachings of Adolf Hitler, received an 18-month prison sentence, suspended for two years, for carrying an offensive weapon, a flick knife, and conspiring with Mr Roberts to acquire the Mauser pistol.

Reginald Cox, aged 36, a gun dealer, of Carlton Terrace, Burntwood, Staffordshire, who supplied Mr Roberts with most of the guns, was sent to prison for eight years. That included a five-year sentence for sexual offences against nine girls.

Ian Frazer Gilmore, aged 27, gun dealer, of Charter Close, Norton Canes, Staffordshire, received a two-year jail sentence, suspended for two years, for illegal possession of firearms, and Harold Simcox, aged 33, a former National Front candidate, of Grace Road, Tipton, West Midlands, received an 18-month sentence suspended.

John Stokes, aged 33, of Newton Street, West Bromwich, who admitted stealing from his employers, Webley and Scott, the gunmakers, was jailed for two years.

In brief

Kent motorway plan approved

The Government yesterday announced its approval for the 8.6-mile section of the M25 London orbital route between Swanley and Sevenoaks, in Kent, which has been fiercely opposed on environmental grounds.

Mr Kenneth Clarke, Parliamentary Secretary for Transport, said that the decision had been a "particularly sensitive" one, but the advantages of the route outweighed the disadvantages.

Protest by disabled

Twenty handicapped people refused to attend a free pantomime held for the International Year of Disabled People at the Key Theatre, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, yesterday after complaining that there were insufficient facilities for wheelchairs and walking frames.

Baby has pacemaker

A week-old baby has been given a heart pacemaker in an operation at Killingbeck Hospital, Leeds. Richard Andrew Brightmore, who had a congenital heart block, is believed to be the youngest person to have such an operation.

Journalists get 16%

Journalists at *The Daily Telegraph* yesterday accepted a pay offer yielding average increases of almost 16 per cent. The average salary will be £12,915 from next July.

Water action threat

Union delegates representing 2,000 water and sewerage workers in Greater Manchester, Lancashire and Cumbria yesterday voted to reject the employers' 7.9 per cent pay offer and to take industrial action.

Shoppers pay again

Debenhams' store in Southampton has had an overwhelming response from shoppers after it appealed to them to replace about £80,000 of cheque and credit card receipts stolen on December 20.

Waste Council goes

The abolition of the Waste Management Advisory Council and the National Anti-Waste Programme was confirmed in a Commons written reply yesterday by Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry.

Maw sister pregnant

Charlene Maw, aged 18, of Bradford, who with her sister Annette is serving a prison sentence for the manslaughter of her father, is expecting a baby in the summer.

BR investigate theft

British Rail yesterday began an investigation into the theft of £52,000 in foreign currency from a train after the courier tion of two men at Nottingham.

Ivory Madonna stolen

A carved ivory figure of the Madonna dating from the seventeenth century has been stolen from a plinth above the altar at Canterbury Cathedral.

Tobacco price rise

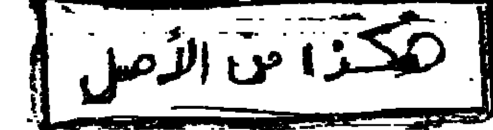
The price of most Carreras Rothmans' cigarettes will rise by 4p for 20 from today.

Garage men and 16 policemen on 65 summonses

Sixteen police officers and four garage directors were accused at Hertford Magistrates' Court yesterday of bribery and corruption.

The cases arise from an inquiry into allegations that motorway patrolmen took bribes from garages. The inquiry was centred on a traffic base at Garston, near Watford.

The policemen, including a woman constable, and the directors faced a total of 65 summonses. None of the defendants appeared.



In brief

Kent motor plan approved

Protest by disabled

WEST EUROPE

Forlani coalition faces mounting industrial unrest as partners bicker over lack of coherent policy

From John Earle
Rome, Jan 20

While the hunt goes on for the kidnappers of Judge Giovanni d'Urso, Signor Arnaldo Forlani's Italian coalition government faces a period of mounting social and industrial tension

Though the judge's release has temporarily eased the strains among its four components—Christian Democrats, Socialists, Social Democrats and Republicans—over how to deal with terrorism, fresh challenges have come from the public services and the steel and chemical industries.

The public has felt the discomfort of a strike by pilots of Alitalia and of widespread electricity blackouts. About three-quarters of the national flag-carrier's pilots, grouped in an independent trade union, are claiming annual salary increases ranging from 18m to 30m lire (£7,825 to £13,040), while the company is reported to be offering 3m to 4m lire (£1,300 to £1,740).

Alitalia had to cancel most foreign and domestic flights, operating a few skeleton services with pilots belonging to the national trade union confederations.

Both public and industry are being subjected to more severe electricity cuts than ever before, mostly staggered over 90-minute periods in different part of the country.

Power consumption has risen, during one of the hardest winters for years, while production is virtually static and the possibilities of importing power from Swirzerland and Austria are limited. Enel, the national electricity board, has given warning that the situation can only worsen.

Successive governments have produced a number of national energy plans over the years, providing for the building of nuclear and conventional power stations, but these have mostly remained a dead letter, partly through lack of drive and partly from local opposition on environmental grounds.

The simmering crisis in the nationalized steel industry has come into the open with the resignation of Signor Ambrogio Puri as chairman of Italsider, the country's biggest producer, with an annual output of about 10 million tons. He alleged lack of support for rationalization efforts from Signor Gianni de Michelis, the minister for state-owned industry.

The Republican Party has come to Signor Puri's defence, calling in a statement for a "coherent and planned government policy" for companies, like Italsider, which represent the backbone of industry.

Signor de Michelis is a Socialist and once again, as at the time of the d'Urso kidnapping, the two coalition parties are bickering with each other.

The partly state-owned Montedison, an ailing giant for much of the 1970s, is once more in trouble. The unions have called a series of strikes against dismissals which the management of Italy's biggest chemical group says are essential to its recovery strategy.

Montedisons's operating subsidiaries need to shed 9,000 over the next two years from a workforce of about 45,000, while Montefibre (fibres) plans to get rid of another 3,000, and Acna (dyes) another 840.

This is still a much healthier outlook than that facing the relcis of the formerly privately-owned Società Italiana Resine and Liquichimica. The intention is for these to be taken over by the state corporation Eni, but, as a statement from the Ministry of State Industry pointed out, they have accumulated losses of 1,000,000m lire (about £435m), and the jobs of their 40,000 workers cannot be guaranteed.

Looking further ahead, these difficulties should be overcome in the framework of a three-year economic plan which the Government is due to approve by the end of January.

Builders arrested: Five local officials and builders were aarrested today on embezzlement and other charges in connexion with contracts to build council houses after the January, 1968 earthquake in the Belice valley of western Sicily, where 40,000 people are still living in huts. Police are looking for another three.

The charges, in one of several cases being investigated by magistrates, allege that the final price paid for 38 council houses in the village of Menfi was more than double that stipulated in the original contract.

Lonely task for only woman in French poll

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, Jan 20

Mme Marie-France Garaud, the one-time adviser to President Pompidou and M Jacques Chirac, is waging a doughty battle in the presidential elections for her ideas, if not for herself, and has no chance of beating the political heavyweights she has chosen to take on.

She is fighting without the backing of a party or a well organized political machine, without a ready-made platform, without substantial funds, and without the advantage of being a man in this politically still misogynist country, but with more than a common dose of courage and conviction.

What is important for her, she told a luncheon of the Anglo-American Press today, is to ensure that the political debate to which the campaign gives rise is clear and real; and that the main protagonists are driven out of the nebulous positions in whih they have so far entrenched themselves.

She could not tell at this stage what was the policy of either President Giscard d'Estaing or M François Mitterrand, the Socialist leader.

In 1974, the President had fought the elections on national independence and economic recovery and she had supported him. But since then, his stand abroad endangered French indepenudence, and his economic policy was a flop.

What was M Mitterrand's stand? He had stood for the union of the left. Now he was marking his distance from the Communists. He had approved the stationing of American SS20 missiles on European soil; but in December, at the Madrid conference of the Socialist International, he had approved its neutralist positions.

"I am not sure what the President's policy is. How then can be average Frenchman have any clear idea of its objectives?" She asked: "I want these elections to serve some purpose, and I am beginning to see some small results for my efforts already in terms of the language which is being used. M Francois-Ponset (the Foreign Minister) is much more cautious about détente. M Chirac has clarified his stand on foreign policy."

Mme Garaud: Trying to lift the level of debate.

Daughter opposes Picasso handover

From Our Correspondent
Madrid, Jan 20

One of Pablo Picasso's daughters thinks Spain is not democratic enough for his civil war masterpiece, "Guernica", to be hung in a Spanish museum; and her attitude could delay the handing over of the painting to the Spanish Government by the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the Madrid newspaper *El Pais* said today.

The daughter, Maya, born to his French companion Marie-Thérèse Walter, is the only close relative of Picasso who is known to oppose delivery of the painting to Spain. In an interview published in *El Pais*, she says, "My father would not have approved of this transfer."

Picasso painted the big canvas to call the world's attention to the devastating dive-bomb attack on the Basque town of Guernica by Hitler's Luftwaffe which supported General Franco during the civil war. He always said that it was dedicated to the Spanish people, and should be placed in their custody once the republic was reestablished and democratic freedoms were assured.

Since last October the painting has been awaiting shipment from the New York museum to Madrid in accordance with Picasso's wishes, confirmed by the family's lawyer, M Ronald Dumas in 1977. No explanation for the delay has been offered by either the Spanish Government or the Museum of Modern Art, which has been keeping the picture since 1939.

The Spanish authorities would like to hang the painting in the Casón del Buen Retiro, an annex of the Prado museum in Madrid, this year, the one hundredth anniversary of Picasso's birth in Malaga. Exhibitions and events throughout Spain are scheduled to commemorate the centenary.

The painter's daughter says in the interview, that her father spoke of the return of the republic, whereas Spain is now a monarchy.

She also feels that there is not enough freedom yet. She objects to the fact that there is no divorce law in Spain, and she is not satisfied with the legal status of illegitimate children.

"We cannot speak of democracy in Spain," she says, "as long as the Army and the police of the old regime are retained."

According to *El Pais* there is a remote possibility of the case going to the International Court of Justice in The Hague. Officials of Spain's Directorate of Fine Arts are to talk over the matter again later this week with Picasso's widow, Jacqueline, his children, Marina, Paloma, Claude and Maya, and his grandson, Bernard.

Snow closes tunnel

Chamonix, Jan 20. — Heavy snow over the French Alps forced the closure of the Mount Blanc road tunnel to Italy. Skiing resorts in the area of Val d'Isère were cut off.

El Al manager beaten

Copenhagen, Jan 20. — The manager of the Copenhagen office of the Israeli airline El Al was beaten and seriously injured last night. His office was daubed with swastikas.

Portugal facing daunting tasks

Oil costs and drought threaten economy

From Richard Wigg
Lisbon, Jan 20

The outcome of the debate on Portugal's new Government, which began today is not in doubt. By the end of the week its parliamentary majority will have easily voted down the Socialists' "no confidence" motion and approved the Government programme.

But there are three main problems for the new Administration to face—reform of the 1976 Constitution, the worsening economic situation, and negotiations for entry to the European Community.

Unfortunately the world depression considerably complicates the task of developing the country's frail economic structure and at the same time adapting it to EEC competition.

Decisions like the Opec oil price rises in Bali last autumn and the lack of winter rains over much of Portugal's north-east and Alentejo in the south are far more important for the country's economy than any government programmes or declarations in Brussels.

Because of the Bali decision, Portugal, which has to import 83 per cent of its energy requirements, found its petrol bill shooting up from about £850m last year to about £1,250m this year. If the rains do not come in the next month, filling the reservoirs and dams and saving livestock, there will be power shortages as well as increased food imports.

This will worsen balance of payments difficulties; and Senhor Francisco Pinto Balsemão, the Prime Minister, said on taking office it would "not be convenient" to increase any further the country's "very high" foreign debt, which this year is 70,000m escudos (£530m).

In the present world depression it is becoming increasingly difficult to export enough to pay for imports—let alone modernize the country for EEC entry.

The new Government has created a new Ministry for European Integration, with Senhor Alvaro Barreto, an American-trained business executive, taking charge of the negotiations with Brussels.

But Mr Gaston Thorn, the new President of the EEC Commission, has just given the minister a cold douche, pushing back the realistic date for Portugal's entry and, apparently, linking it with that of Spain.

Entry in 1985, instead of January 1, 1983, as planned, is bad enough; but the apparent linkage with Spain really worries Lisbon. The Portuguese, perhaps naively, wanted to get in before their peninsular "big brother", thinking that would mean more favourable terms. They also want to avoid being left out, along with Spain, if their neighbour's application runs into trouble in Brussels.

It was the Socialists under Dr Mario Soares's premiership in 1977 who began the approaches to Brussels. But now their motion of "no confidence" criticizes the Pinto Balsemão Government for proposing more private enterprise and increased productivity to overcome Portugal's economic backwardness and pave the way for EEC entry.

The Socialists, now in opposition, are unwilling to let the Communists win all the political advantages if anti-EEC feelings arise from the economic hardships being suffered by the Portuguese — steep price increases at the new year are estimated to have reduced the purchasing power of basic wages by as much as a quarter.

Behind the conciliatory language about "institutional solidarity" exchanged by the President and the Prime Minister, the powers of the Presidency look like being the most difficult problem to tackle in constitutional reform.

President Eanes is not the kind of man to give way easily and the December election result proved there is popular support for the way he interprets his constitutional role.

The Socialists have declared their objection to reducing the President's powers now they are in opposition. Their support is crucial for the two-thirds majority the coalition needs to muster for any constitutional reform. The Government has little margin for manoeuvre, therefore, in carrying out its election pledge to curb the semi-Presidential system.

Señor Suárez in strong position to face critics

From Harry Debelius
Madrid, Jan 20

The confident survivor of two general elections, a vote of censure and a vote of confidence, Señor Adolfo Suárez, the Prime Minister, is expected to reconfirm his tenacious hold on the party apparatus of his Centre Democratic Union (UCD) when the party holds its second congress next week in Palma de Mallorca.

As the congress draws closer, it becomes more apparent that critics in his party have no chance of unseating him as secretary-general through the expedient of separating the party leadership from the Prime Minister's office. The critics are in the minority and the most they can expect to gain from the congress is a sympathetic ear.

While there is widespread concern within the party that voters are losing interest, there is reluctance at the top to heed the critical sector, which is more conservative than the main body. At the congress it may be possible to determine whether such reticence is the result of sound judgment about the attitudes of the electorate or whether it is merely a recurrence of the phobia on the part of Señor Suárez and his closest advisers towards adopting any position which might recall their previous loyalty to the dictatorship.

The challenge from the right within the party comes mainly from the Christian-Democrat sector; and it has had the effect of closing the ranks between the left and centre.

Some of the more pragmatic members of the Prime Minister's party realize that accommodation of the right must be effected within the UCD; otherwise the conservatives and the voters who support them could easily drift to the Popular Alliance (AP) headed by a former Interior Minister and ambassador to London, Professor Manuel Fraga Iribarne.

The Madrid Government's deputy in the Basque country, Señor Marcelino Oreja, one of the founders of the "Tacito" group of Christian Democrat reformists, which burst on the political scene in the latter days of the Franco regime, is tipped as a potential peacemaker, since he shares the right-wing rebels' ambition to democratize the internal structure of the party without sharing their wish to replace Señor Suárez.

Señor Rudolfo Martin Villa, the Minister for Territorial Administration, held "private conversations" in the Basque capital of Vitoria last weekend with Señor Oreja. A pro-Suárez man, Señor Martin Villa probably has more political strength in the coming congress than any other leader of the party.

OVERSEAS

Threat of ban forces black newspapers to close in S Africa

From Nicholas Ashford
Johannesburg, Jan 20

South Africa's two most popular black newspapers, *The Post* (Transvaal) and *The Sunday Post*, have been forced to close down because the Government has threatened to ban them if they resume publication.

Both papers ceased publication last October when editorial staff, members of the black union Media Workers' Association of South Africa, went on strike in support of colleagues involved in a labour dispute on *The Cape Herald* newspaper.

When the strike ended just before Christmas, the Government told *The Post* owners, the Argus Publishing Company, that registration of the papers had lapsed under the terms of the Internal Security Act.

Today the company was informed by Mr Christiaan Heunis, the Interior Minister, that although the Government could not by law prevent the publishers from applying for registration, it would ban the papers if this was done.

Mr Hal Miller, managing director of Argus, said the Government had told him it had decided some time ago to ban the two newspapers, but the decision had not been implemented because the strike had kept the papers off the streets. No reason was given for the decision.

Because of the strike, registration of the newspapers had lapsed. Argus applied immediately either for the Government to condone the lapse in registration or for the papers to be registered.

Mr Miller said the company had decided not to proceed with the application for registration because "we see no point in making a futile gesture by insisting on registration and then submitting to the injustice of actual banning".

This is the second time in just over three years that the Government's axe has fallen on what is the only effective mass medium of black opinion in South Africa. *The Post* had an average daily circulation of 112,000 with an estimated 907,000 readers. *The Sunday Post* had a circulation of about 118,000 and an estimated readership of 1,200,000.

The two papers' predecessors, *The World* and *Weekend World*, were banned in October, 1977, along with 16 Black Consciousness organizations. Shortly before their closure Mr James Kruger, the then Minister of Justice, had complained about a leading article in *The World* about the death in police detention of Mr Steve Biko, the Black Consciousness leader.

Although *The Post* was not as outspoken as *The World* had been, it nevertheless stood firmly in support of black interests and was often robust in its criticism of the Government's race policies.

The editor of *The Post* and *The Sunday Post* was Mr Percy Qoboza who had previously been in charge of *The World*. He spent several months in detention after the latter paper was banned. Last week Mr Qoboza, who is presently in the United States, announced that he was resigning as the editor of the *Post* papers.

The closing of the two papers was widely condemned today. Bishop Desmond Tutu, general-secretary of the South African Council of Churches, said he was distressed that the Government still refused to learn that banning a newspaper would "not ban the thoughts and feelings of the masses".

The Argus-owned *Star* said that the Government's action would "not freeze the political turmoil in the townships, nor will it give any government more time to find a solution. Instead the move will aid extremists and discomfort many moderates".

Several commentators noted that the Government's stand has come at a time when a full-scale investigation into the press is being carried out by the Government - appointed Steyn Commission. Mr Rex Gibson, editor of the *Sunday Express*, said the move showed how little confidence the Government had both in the commission and the concept of press freedom.

Commercial whaling stopped by Russia

From Michael Binyon
Moscow, Jan 20

In a significant step towards a total ban on commercial whaling, the Russians have announced that their fishing fleet in the Far East has stopped whaling and converted its flotillas into floating fish processing bases.

The Russians, together with the Japanese, are the only two countries still engaged in whaling on a large scale, and both have come under strong pressure from conservationists at international whaling conferences.

Tass announced last week that the Soviet Fleet in the Far East, the principal base for the country's fishing industry, would henceforth catch only "several" whales each year, to satisfy the needs of the few inhabitants of the extreme north-east of Siberia.

The ban is part of an extensive programme for nature conservation. Vast tracts of the almost uninhabited Kamchatka Peninsula, the island of Sakhalin and the region around Vladivostok have been proclaimed reservations and sanctuaries, complementing the first Soviet maritime reservation in Peter the Great Bay, off Vladivostok.

The far eastern centre of the Soviet Academy of Science is drafting guidelines for putting into effect in Siberia the new national decrees on conservation over the next 10 years, while local authorities have sharply increased their appropriations for nature protection.

Recently the Russians announced that, thanks to a ban on hunting in the Bering Sea and the far north, the walrus population of the east Siberian seas has multiplied two and a half times over the past twenty years. Scientists are making aerial surveys to determine the true numbers.

In the northern seas of the Arctic region the hunting of seals and sea animals is already subject to strict quotas, and satellite photography is used to see that they are enforced.

Leading article, page 15

Taking the oath : Watched by his wife, Mr Reagan is sworn in as the next President.

EEC sends envoy on Middle East tour

From Michael Hornsby
Brussels, Jan 20

The EEC is to press ahead with its attempt to play an independent peace-making role in the Middle East and at the same time to seek the support of the new American Administration for what the Community is trying to do.

At their first meeting since the Christmas break, EEC foreign ministers authorized Dr Christoph van der Klaauw, their Dutch colleague, to undertake a new round of visits to Middle East capitals and to make an interim report to the next EEC summit meeting in Maastricht on March 23 and 24.

Dr van der Klaauw has been asked to put what senior officials described as "a series of questions" to Arab and Israeli leaders to clarify in more detail their response to the declaration on the iddle East conflict issued by the EEC last June in Venice.

A first sounding of reaction was undertaken last August and September by Mr Gaston Thorn. In one of his last tasks as Foreign Minister of Luxembourg. Mr Thorn has since taken over the presidency of the European Commission from Mr Roy Jenkins.

Dr van der Klaauw's mission is seen largely as a holding operation, to keep Arab interest in the EEC's diplomatic activities alive, until such time as the attitude of the new United States Government has clarified.

The Americans have hitherto said that they consider the Camp David talks between Egypt and Israel as the only workable approach to a peace settlement. They disagree with the EEC that the Palestine Liberation Organization needs to be actively involved

It is already clear that if the studied coolness of the outgoing Carter regime to the EEC initiative turns into open hostility under President Reagan this will deal a death-blow to the Community's hopes of playing an effective role.

Although France and one or two other EEC member states might want to press on even in the face of strong American opposition, it appears that the majority, including Britain, would regard such a policy as empty posturing serving no practical purpose.

Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, who was one of the main authors of the Venice declaration, is understood to take the view that a large part of the EEC's value to the Arabs in the Middle East conflict is the influence the Community can bring to bear in Washington. He will be visiting the American capital with Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, on February 25.

Dr van der Klaauw's soundings will begin in mid-February with a meeting with Mr Chedli Klibi, the secretary-general of the Arab League, in The Hague. He will then set off for Israel where he also hopes to visit the occupied Arab territories.

Other stops on Dr van der Klaauw's tour will be Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Iran, Kuwait, Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates. He will also visit Washington, and have talks with PLO leaders.

Wall of silence: An investigation into the killing of three Senegalese United Nations soldiers in south Lebanon had run up against a "wall of silence", a United Nations spokesman said today (Reuter reports from Tel Aviv).

He said: "This was a cold-blooded murder. They were shot with pistols at short range but nobody is willing to talk."

A Fijian soldier wounded in a clash with PLO men on Friday died yesterday

Mr Reagan uses words of Kennedy

Continued from page 1

Mr Reagan, we are told, wrote much of his speech himself after studying those delivered by his predecessors. One passage was a striking reprise of John Kennedy's inaugural speech, another used key words from Jimmy Carter's.

"Freedom and the dignity of the individual have been more available and assured here than in any other place on earth. The price for this freedom has at times been high, but we have never been unwilling to pay that price."

That was a close paraphrase of Kennedy. A moment later, addressing Americans directly, calling them heroes, he said: "We shall reflect the compassion that is so much a part of your make-up. How can we love our country and not love our countrymen? And loving them, reach out a hand when they fall, heal them when they are sick, and provide opportunity to make them self-sufficient so they will be equal not just in theory" That was pure Carter.

Mr Reagan also paraphrased Winston Churchill, this time naming his source. "I did not take the oath I have just taken with the intention of presiding over the dissolution of the world's strongest economy."

After the ceremony, President Reagan and Vice-President Bush attended a dinner in the Capitol building offered by Congress, and former President Carter left for Plains, Georgia. He was welcomed home by a street party arranged by townspeople and left two hours later.

He returned to Washington, to join the delegation that is flying to Wiesbaden tonight to meet the hostages

Soviet greeting: President Leonid Brezhnev sent a telegram of congratulations to President Reagan on his inauguration and called for "constructive cooperation" between the United States and Soviet Union (UPI reports from Moscow).

Chinese reminder: Mr Zhao Ziyang, the Chinese Premier, sent a telegram to the new President apparently reminding him to keep relations with the Nationalist Chinese Government on Taiwan unofficial.

"During your tenure of office, the relations between China and the United States will continue to develop and the traditional friendship between our two great peoples will grow in strength steadily on the basis of both sides firmly abiding by the principles of the communiqué on the establishment of diplomatic relations between our two countries", he said

The United States severed relations with Taiwan when it established diplomatic relations with China on January 1, 1979.

In other messages of congratulations, President Sandro Pertini of Italy said: "The duties which you are confronting are the most serious and your responsiblity is and will be before the eyes of not only your people but also the entire world."

President Giscard D'Estaing of France said: "At the moment of your accession to the presidency of the United States, I send you my warmest wishes for the success in your high mission.

Soviet fury at Japan's islands claim

From Our Own Correspondent
Moscow, Jan 20

The Soviet Foreign Ministry today called in the Japanese Ambassador to protest at Japan's decision to proclaim February 7 the "Day of the Northern Territories", as part of the country's campaign for the return of the South Kurile islands, occupied by the Russians since the end of the Second World War.

In the latest intensification in Moscow's war of words with Tokyo, the Russians also protested against what they called Japanese propaganda on the territorial issue. The ambassador was told that this and his Government's plans to include the question of the northern territories in the Japanese school curriculum constituted "unfriendly actions" towards the Soviet Union. They were seen in Moscow as a deliberate attempt to aggravate Soviet-Japanese relations.

A Tass report said the Foreign Ministry warned the ambassador that Japan was undermining the positive results in Soviet-Japanese relations, and the Soviet Union would draw the "appropriate conclusions."

The ministry statement said Japan had to understand that whatever steps it took "artificially to stir up the non-existent territorial issue", the Soviet stand was unchanged. It added, in a dismissive declaration that does much to explain why Japanese relations with the Soviet Union are now so bad: "No territorial issue exists in relations between the Soviet Union and Japan. This has been repeatedly stated by the Soviet side to Japanese leaders.

"The establishment of good neighbourly relations with the Soviet Union, rather than the laying of groundless territorial claims, would in the opinion of the Soviet Union, meet the interests of Japan itself and the cause of ensuring security in the Far East and the whole of Asia."

Blood feud fear over Knesset seat

From Moshe Brilliant
Tel Aviv, Jan 20

Shaikh Jaber Muadi, a Druse, defied warnings of a blood feud between Beduin and Druse and took his seat in the Knesset (Parliament) this afternoon in place of Shaikh Hammad Abu Rabia, the murdered Bedu leader.

Shaikh Abu Rabia, who was shot dead in Jerusalem last week, had reneged on a pre-election undertaking to vacate his seat in mid-term in favour of the Druse. Members of the Abu Rabia tribe suspect that this was the motive of the assassination. Three Druse from Yirka, Shaikh Jaber's village in Gallilee, were being held by police as suspects.

Israel officials last week persuaded elders of the Abu Rabia tribe to put off their blood vengeance required by their tradition until police complete their investigation. However, the Bedu elders said their agreement would not hold if Shaikh Jaber takes Shaikh Abu Rabia's Knesset seat.

Both Shaikhs were associated with the Labour Alignment and the party attempted to dissuade Shaikh Jaber from taking his seat at this time. He insisted, however, that yielding would imply an acknowledgement of guilt.

The Knesset Speaker interrupted today's debate to administer the pledge of loyalty to the new deputy. Contrary to Knesset tradition, nobody shook Shaikh Jaber's hand as he was guided by an usher to his seat.

Israelis believe the danger of a blood feud between two communities was very real.

Mr Benny Gur-Aryah, the Prime Minister's adviser on minority affairs, visited Abu Rabia elders last week and persuaded them that a vendetta against the Druse would be folly. He said the Druse people had opposed the killing of Shaikh Abu Rabia and Shaikh Jaber was, moreover, a controversial figure in the community.

El Salvador attack on guerrillas

El Paisnal, El Salvador, Jan 20.—Government forces in El Salvador counter-attacked leftist guerrillas in an attempt to thwart any big onslaught to coincide with Mr Ronald Reagan's inauguration in Washington.

The authorities say the guerrillas, who launched an offensive 10 days ago to topple the country's civilian-military junta, are angered by the renewal of United States military aid to El Salvador.

Official sources say the Army is advancing on the guerrillas' rural strongholds. An underground hideout for 150 people was captured by the Army yesterday near the village of El Paisnal. Fifteen guerrillas and four soldiers were killed.—Reuter.

Muhammad Ali talks man out of suicide

Los Angeles, Jan 20. — Muhammad Ali, the former world heavyweight boxing champion, pulled a man, apparently intending to commit suicide, from a ledge on the ninth floor of a building last night after talking to him for half an hour, police said.

The boxer went to the building after a friend telephoned him to say that a 21-year-old man, who was not identified, was standing on the ledge and asking to see the former champion.—Reuter.

Solidarity officials reject Walesa appeal to work

Gdansk, Jan 20.—Mr Lech Walesa, the Polish trade union leader, urged members of his Solidarity organization today not to strike for work-free Saturdays and said he would hold the Government responsible for any further clash over the issue.

Mr Walesa was reporting to the organization's national consultative commission on what he described as four hours of tough talks with Mr Jozef Pinkowski, the Prime Minister, in Warsaw last night. Mr Walesa told delegates to act with prudence and avoid confrontation.

It was his first public speech in Poland since he returned yesterday from a six-day visit to Italy and the Vatican. In his absence, regional branches of Solidarity drew up plans for strikes on Thursday and Friday to press for a 40-hour, five-day working week.

Mr Walesa, who was criticized for holding talks with Mr Pinkowski, said that the talks were for the workers' benefit. He said the Prime Minister had repeated government undertakings to discuss the question of free Saturdays.

Despite Mr Walesa's appeal not to strike, the Solidarity executive today called on its members not to work this Saturday.

In a motion passed in Gdansk today, it was recommended that workers strike on Saturday. It was added that once the principle over Saturdays was recognized, Solidarity members could work certain Saturdays to permit the recovery of the Polish economy.

Solidarity is also seeking increased access to the media, the freeing of seven "political prisoners" and changes in the meat rationing system.—Reuter and Agence France-Presse.

Mr Kim's final appeal

From Jacqueline Reditt
Seoul, Jan 20

The South Korean Supreme Court will rule on Friday on an appeal against the death sentence on Mr Kim Dae Jung, the leading South Korean dissident, Mr Kim's lawyers said today.

This will be the former presidential candidate's final appeal before he places his fate in the hands of President Chun Doo Hwan who will have to decide whether the politician, who is 50, will be hanged.

Nine months ago, Mr Kim was regarded as a potential future president on the basis of his showing against the late President Park Chung-Hee, in the last direct presidential election in 1971. But after the student rioting last May, the military imposed martial law throughout the country and Mr Kim was among the first to be detained. While he was in jail, the authorities accused him of fomenting a civilian uprising in the southern provincial capital of Kwangju.

The court martial found him guilty in September of membership of a communist organization favouring North Korea and of attempting an insurrection

Moment of truth for Mr Reagan at the presidential inaugural gala

From Michael Leapman
New York, Jan 20

At the end of last night's two-hour inaugural gala, the presidential equivalent of a Royal Command variety performance, Mr Ronald Reagan stepped on to the stage at Washington's Capitol Centre, the indoor sports stadium where the gala was held.

He disclosed to the 19,000 spectators that many friends had asked him in the past few days whether the fact of becoming President had really sunk in.

"Tonight", he said, "there was was a point in the programme where I leaned over to her [his wife Nancy] and said: 'It's sunk in'."

Maddeningly, he did not reveal what that point was. It could have been when Rich Little, the American answer to Mike Yarwood, did a fine impersonation of him. Or when one of a number of old-time crooners made cute alterations to the lyrics of standard songs to turn them into tributes to the next President and first lady.

The programme, which had been put together by Frank Sinatra, the oldest-time crooner of them all, reflected the unadventurous conservatism which has already become the hallmark of the new President. It was filled with moments of cloying sentimentality that only Americans know how to carry off without self-consciousness.

Ethel Merman, the singer, who at 72 is even older than Mr Reagan, set the tone with some changes to the words of "Everything's coming up roses".

"You'll be swell", she trilled, "You'll be great"—and in a later verse: "You've got nothing to do but relax." Mr Reagan was certainly doing that, laughing broadly at the jokes about the Carters, about Mr George Bush, the Vice-President, and about jelly-beans—which, as all the world knows by now, are Mr Reagan's favourite food.

He and Mrs Reagan, in a black gown with a regal train, sat on a raised dais in two blue armchairs, a secret service man in evening clothes standing behind each of them. The first couple looked like the king and queen in *Hamlet*, watching the players.

Patriotic moments abounded appropriately, though it was probably a mistake to ask Marie Osmond, who has difficulty in pronouncing the letter r, to sing "America, arise again".

Another piece of high emotion came when America's only surviving five-star general, Omar Bradley, who is nearly 88 and chairbound, was wheeled on to the stage by James Stewart, the actor.

Frank Sinatra occupied the last quarter of an hour, singing about Chicago and New York [why are there no popular songs about Washington, DC?] and inexplicably altering "Nancy with the laughing face" to "Nancy with the Reagan face", a less attractive lyric. Nancy Reagan laughed anyway and blew Frank Sinatra an elegant kiss.

It had sunk in.

We must act today in order to preserve tomorrow, President declares

Washington, Jan 20.—The text of President Reagan's inaugural address was as follows:

To a few of us here today this is a solemn and most momentous occasion and yet in the history of our nation it is a commonplace occurrence.

The orderly transfer of authority as called for in the constitution takes place, as it has for almost two centuries, and few of us stop to think how unique we really are. In the eyes of many in the world, this every-four-year ceremony we accept as normal is nothing less than a miracle.

Mr President, I want our fellow-citizens to know how much you did to carry on this tradition. By your gracious cooperation in the transition process you have shown a watching world that we are a united people, pledged to maintaining a political system which guarantees individual liberty to a greater degree than any other. Thank you and your people for all your help in maintaining the continuity which is the hallmark of our republic.

The business of our nation goes forward. These United States are confronted with an economic affliction of great proportions. We suffer from the longest and one of the worst-sustained inflations in our national history, which distorts our economic decisions, penalizes thrift and crushes the struggling young and the fixed-income elderly alike. It threatens to shatter the lives of millions of our people.

Idle industries have cast workers into unemployment, causing human misery and personal indignity. Those who do work are denied a fair return for their labour by a tax system which penalizes successful achievement and keeps us from maintaining full productivity. But great as our tax burden is, it has not kept pace with public spending. For decades we have piled deficit upon deficit, mortgaging our future and our children's future for the temporary convenience of the present. To continue this long trend is to guarantee tremendous social, cultural, political and economic upheavals.

You and I, as individuals, can, by borrowing, live beyond our means for only a limited period of time. Why should we think that collectively, as a nation, we are not bound by that same limitation?

We must act today in order to preserve tomorrow, and let there be no misunderstanding—we are going to act, beginning today.

The economic ills we suffer have come upon us over several decades. They will not go away in days, weeks or months, but they will go away. They will go away because we, as Americans, have the capacity now, as we have had in the past, to do whatever needs to be done to preserve this last and greatest bastion of freedom.

In this present crisis, government is not the solution, it is the problem.

From time to time we have been tempted to believe that society has become too complex to be managed by self-rule; that government by an elite group is superior to government of, by and for the people. Well, if no one among us is capable of governing himself, then who among us has the capacity to govern someone else?

All of us together—in and out of government — must bear the burden. The solutions we seek must be equitable, with no one group singled out to pay a higher price.

Our concern must be for a special interest group that has been too long neglected. It knows no sectional boundaries, crosses ethnic and racial divisions and political party lines.

It is made up of men and women who raise our food, patrol our streets, man our mines and factories, teach our children, keep our homes and heal us when we are sick. They are professionals, industrialists, shopkeepers, clerks, cabbies and truck drivers. They are, in short, "we, the people".

Our objective must be a healthy, vigorous, growing economy that provides equal opportunities for all Americans, with no barriers borne of bigotry or discrimination. Putting America back to work means putting all Americans back to work.

Ending inflation means freeing all Americans from the terror of runaway living costs. All must share in the productive work of this "new beginning", and all must share in the bounty of a revived economy. With the idealism and fair play which are the core of our strength, we can have a strong, prosperous America at peace with itself and the world.

As we begin, let us take inventory. We are a nation that has a government—not the other way around. And this makes us special among the nations of the Earth. Our government has no power except that granted it by the people. It is time to check and reverse the growth of government, which shows signs of having grown beyond the consent of the governed.

It will be my intention to curb the size and influence of the federal establishment, and to demand recognition of the distinction between the powers granted to the federal government and those reserved to the states or to the people. All of us need to be reminded that the federal government did not create the states—the states created the federal government.

So there will be no misunderstanding, it is not my intention to do away with government, it is rather to make it work—work with us, not over us—to stand by our side, not ride on our back. Government can and must provide opportunity, not smother it; foster productivity, not stifle it.

If we look for the answer as to why for so many years we achieved so much, prospered as no other people on earth, it was because here in this land we unleashed the energy and individual genius of man to a greater extent than had ever been done before.

Freedom and the dignity of the individual have been more available and assured here than in any other place on earth. The price for this freedom has at times been high, but we have never been unwilling to pay that price.

It is no coincidence that our present troubles parallel the intervention and intrusion in our lives that have resulted from unnecessary and excessive growth of government.

We are too great a nation to limit ourselves to small dreams. We are not, as some would have us believe, doomed to an inevitable decline. I do not believe in a fate that will fall on us, no matter what we do. I do believe in a fate that will fall on us if we do nothing.

So, with all the creative energy at our command, let us begin an era of national renewal. Let us renew our determination, our courage, and our strength. Let us renew our faith and our hope. We have every right to dream heroic dreams.

Those who say we are in a time when there are no heroes, just do not know where to look. You can see heroes every day going in and out of factory gates. Others, a handful in number, produce food enough to feed all of us, and much of the world beyond.

You meet heroes across a counter—on both sides of that counter. There are entrepreneurs with faith in themselves and an idea who create new jobs, new wealth and opportunity. They are individuals and families whose taxes support the government and whose voluntary gifts support church, charity, culture, art, and education. Their patriotism is quiet but deep. Their values sustain our national life.

I have used the words "they" and "their" in speaking of these heroes. I could say "you" and "your" because I am addressing the heroes of whom I speak—you, the citizens of this blessed land. Your dreams, your hopes, your goals are going to be the dreams, the hopes and goals of this administration, so help me God.

We shall reflect the compassion that is so much a part of your makeup. How can we love our country and not love our countrymen? And loving them, reach out a hand when they fall, heal them when they are sick and provide opportunity to make them self-sufficient so they will be equal in fact and not just in theory?

Can we solve the problems confronting us? The answer is an unequivocal and emphatic yes. To paraphrase Winston Churchill, I did not take the oath I have just taken with the intention of presiding over the dissolution of the world's strongest economy.

In the days ahead I will propose removing a number of the roadblocks that have slowed our economy and reduced productivity. Steps will be taken aimed at restoring the balance between the various levels of government.

Progress will be slow—measured in inches and feet, not miles—but we will progress. It is time to reawaken this industrial giant, to get government back within its means, and to lighten our punitive tax burden. These will be our first priorities, and on these principles, there will be no compromise.

On the eve of our struggle for independence a man who might have been one of the greatest among the founding fathers if he had not given his life on Bunker Hill, Dr Joseph Warren, president of the Massachusetts Congress, said to his fellow Americans: "Our country is in danger, but not to be despaired of . . . on you depend the fortunes of America. You are to decide the important questions on which rest the happiness and liberty of millions yet unborn. Act worthy of yourselves."

I believe we, the Americans of today, are ready to act worthy of ourselves, ready to do what must be done to ensure happiness and liberty for ourselves, our children, and our children's children.

And as we renew ourselves here in our own land, we will be seen as having greater strength throughout the world. We will again be the exemplar of freedom and a beacon of hope for those who do not now have freedom.

To those neighbours and allies who share our ideal of freedom, we will strengthen our historic ties and assure them of our support and firm commitment. We will match loyalty with loyalty. We will strive for mutually beneficial relations. We will not use our friendship to impose on their sovereignty, for our own sovereignty is not for sale.

To the enemies of freedom, to those who are potential adversaries, they will be reminded that peace is the highest aspiration of the American people. We will negotiate for it, sacrifice for it—we will not surrender for it, now or ever.

Our forbearance should never be misunderstood. Our reluctance for conflict should not be misjudged as a failure of will. When action is required to preserve our national security, we will act. We will maintain sufficient strength to prevail, if need be, knowing that if we do so we have the best chance of not having to use that strength.

Above all, we must realize no weapon in the arsenals of the world is so formidable as the will and moral courage of free men and women. It is a weapon our adversaries in today's world do not have. It is a weapon that we as Americans do have. Let that be understood by those who practise terrorism and prey upon their neighbours.

I am told that tens of thousands of prayer meetings are being held on this day, and for that I am deeply grateful. We are a nation under God, and I believe God intended for us to be free. It would be fitting and good if each inaugural day should be a day of prayer.

This is the first time in our history that this ceremony has been held on the west front of the Capitol building. Standing here, we face a magnificent vista, opening up on this city's special beauty and history. At the end of this open mall are those shrines to the giants on whose shoulders we stand.

Directly in front of me, the monument to a monumental man. George Washington, father of our country. A man of humility who came to greatness reluctantly. He led America out of revolutionary victory into infant nationhood.

Off to one side, the stately memorial to Thomas Jefferson. The Declaration of Independence flames with his eloquence. And then beyond the reflecting pool, the dignified columns of the Lincoln Memorial. Whoever would understand in his heart the meaning of America will find it in the life of Abraham Lincoln.

Beyond these monuments to heroism is the Potomac River, and on the far shore the sloping hills of Arlington National Cemetery, with its row upon row of simple white markers with crosses and Stars of David, adding up to only a tiny fraction of the price that has been paid for our freedom.

Each one of those markers is a monument to the kind of hero I spoke of earlier. Their lives ended in places called Belleau Wood, the Argonne, Omaha Beach, Salerno, and half way round the world, on Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Pork Chop Hill, the Chosin Reservoir, and in a hundred rice paddies and jungles of a place called Vietnam.

Under such a marker lies a young man—Martin Treptow—who left his job in a small town barber shop in 1917 to go to France with the famed Rainbow Division. There, on the Western Front, he was killed trying to carry a message between battalions under heavy artillery fire.

We are told that on his body was found a diary. On the flyleaf under the heading, "My pledge," he had written these words: "America must win this war. Therefore I will work, I will save, I will sacrifice. I will endure, I will fight cheerfully and do my utmost, as if the issue of the whole struggle depended on me alone."

The crisis we are facing today does not require the kind of sacrifice that Martin Treptow and so many thousands of others were called upon to make. It does, however, require our best effort, our work and our willingness to believe in ourselves and in our capacity to perform great deeds. That, together and with God's help, we can and will resolve the problems which confront us.

Why shouldn't we believe that? After all—we are Americans.

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IRAN HOSTAGES

Embassy elation turns to apprehension as delay follows delay

From Ian Murray
Algiers, Jan 20

Throughout a long, nail-biting day officials at the American Embassy battled to keep smiling as the frustrating details of the long series of delays came through from Iran.

After the elation of yesterday when Mr Warren Christopher, the Deputy Secretary of State, signed the agreements which were meant to bring about the release of the hostages, the mood slowly changed to apprehension.

After a relaxed afternoon yesterday Mr Christopher had been told of difficulties being raised over the financial arrangements and immediately called a meeting of experts.

Among those called to the embassy was Mr Kit McMahon, the Deputy Governor of the Bank of England, the central bank approved by both Iran and America to hold freed Iranian assets while the hostages were being released. The experts worked in the details throughout the evening and into the early morning and it was not until 3 am that Mr McMahon left the American Embassy for his bed at the British Residence.

Mr Christopher snatched three hours sleep and left shortly before 9 am in the big cream embassy car for the Foreign Ministry and a long session with Mr Muhammad Benyahia, the Algerian Foreign Minister.

Worried that any leak of information might upset the release of the hostages, none of the Algerian, American or British experts were prepared to say anything..

The Algerians grew increasingly worried. For the people of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria the central role of their diplomats and ministers has become a matter of great national pride. The newspapers, *El Moudjahid*, leads proudly today on the news of the agreement with *stories headlined "President Carter renders homage to Algeria,"* and "The most spectacular of modern times".

People in the street stopped journalists, wearing the special pass issued by the Ministry of Information, and asked for the latest news. "It is a great moment for our country," they say. "We are so proud and happy that they are coming here"

There is further pleasure in the fact that Algerian doctors were incharge of checking the condition of the hostages and that the hostages were due to be flown out of Tehran on board two red and white Air Algérie Boeing 727s.

There has been growing concern from people making inquiries. "We do hope nothing is going wrong," they say. "Do tell us they will still be coming here."

At the American Embassy the one person oozing confidence and good humour has been Mrs Yolande Haines, the Ambassador's wife, a Haitian and former Paris fashion model. She runs the cash desk in the embassy canteen adjoining the courtyard at the front of the building. There she makes out the chits for the beers, the steaks and the coffee consumed by the press corps and embassy staff in growing quantities.

At the airport the domestic arrival area allocated to receive the hostages, has been blocked off with railings for the past two days, with only a handful of television and radio technicians allowed through

EEC to lift sanctions imposed last May

From Michael Hornsby
Brussels, Jan 20

EEC Foreign Ministers today welcomed the "release safe and sound" of the American hostages and said that the trade and economic sanctions imposed by the Community on Iran last May were "no longer called for".

In a separate statement, at the request of Lord Carrington, the British Foreign Secretary, the ministers also said they were looking to the Iranian authorities "to accelerate the release" of the three British missionaries and a businessman held without charge.

Lord Carrington has made it clear that he regards the problem of the British detainees as being separate from that posed by the American hostages, to whose fate the trade sanctions were specifically related.

Arms sales to Iran are regarded by the EEC as coming in a different category from general trade, and member-states will decide individually what to do. In Britain's case any Iranian requests for arms or spare parts will be considered, on their merits, but it is most likely that they would be met so long as the four British citizens are held and the war between Iran and Iraq continues.

The trade sanctions against Iran never had much more than symbolic effect since they applied only to export contracts concluded after November 4, 1979—the day when the hostages were seized. Even that limited degree of retroactive application was reneged on by Britain because of a revolt by the House of Commons.

The sanctions thus conveniently left untouched the bulk of current trade with Iran, which in any case had fallen to a low level because of the disruption caused by the Iranian revolution. Despite sanctions British trade with Iran in the first 11 months of 1980 was n fact 70 per cent higher at £368m than in the same period of 1979.

Aside from lifting trade sanctions, the Community will also restore normal diplomatic relations and the visa requirement introduced for Iranians wishing to visit EEC countries will also be withdrawn.

The ministers said that they had always fully respected the independence of Iran and the right of its people to determine their own future.



A yellow ribbon being tied round an old oak tree outside an American hospital in Wiesbaden, as urged by the old soldiers' song, to show the returning hostages that their girls still loved them.

City lawyers overcome final hitch on assets

By Roman Eisenstein
Banking Correspondent

The final hitch over the American hostages was resolved yesterday thanks to the activity of a firm of City solicitors acting for Bank Markazi, the Iranian central bank.

The firm, Stephenson Harwood who had been acting for the Iranians over the matter of blocked Iranian funds in subsidiaries of American banks in London, put forward fresh proposals on how to calculate interest on Iranian deposits.

A statement from the solicitors issued last night said that Stephenson Harwood's involvement in this matter arose after the Carter freeze in 1979. It acted for several Iranian banking clients including Bank Markazig over the legal issues arising from the freeze of Iranian deposits.

This, says the firm, "caused *serious indeed unprecedented* legal and banking problems for the City of London and the international financial community. The firm is very pleased that together with the other advisers concerned including several firms in the City its work over the past days and nights has contributed to the settlement now reached".

One of the main firms of solicitors acting for the Americans is Coward Chance, another City firm. Stephenson Harwood is one of the largest firms of solicitors in the City

Meanwhile, another part of the complex financial operations went smoothly yesterday. The Bank of England confirmed that billions of dollars of frozen Iranian assets had been transferred by the United States into an Algerian escrow account to be held on behalf of the Iranians. The funds were to be transferred to an Iranian account as soon as the hostages had been released.

Family liaison group keeps spirits high

Washington, Jan 20. — Founded as a self-help group for families of the American hosctages in Iran, the Family Liaison Action Group (FLAG) has developed into a corporation with offices in Washington, a board of directors, a newsletter and a sizeable bank account.

"Having this organization creates the emotional bond that all families share with each other," Mrs Louisa Kennedy, who helped to found the organization last March, said: It made it easier "to keep your chin up".

FLAG's purpose is to help the families of the 52 American hostages, to keep them informed of recent developments, to help them to deal with the news media, to answer their questions and keep them abreast of hostage ceremonies and events

The office receives 80 calls a day from civic groups and institutions that want to do something to help. Since last summer the organization has raised more than $150,000 (more than £65,000) from donors.—AP.

Retaliation by Washington caused hardship for ayatollah's enemies

Washington, Jan 20.—American retaliation for the seizure of the embassy staff in Tehran brought hardship for many of the 250,000 Iranians living in the United States.

Yet there were few instances of violence. There was a torrent of angry words on radio talk shows, which have become America's safety valve. There was som eridicule of all things Iranian.

By and large, the 250,000 Iranians in the United States lived in peace. Even the few thousand who used the streets of America to vent their political rage against America were able to march in peace, if sometimes with heavy police protection.

Still, many Iranians here were affected by American actions, and some feel those actions have left a legacy of bitterness.

President Carter took action specifically intended to affect the estimated 70,000 Iranians who were in the United States on student visas. He ordered them to report to the Immigration and Naturalization Serifvice for visa checks to see if they were in the country legally. Civil liberty groups contend that there was no legal one nationality, but the Supreme Court upheld the President's action.

"It is not only a violation of civil liberties, but judicrous", Mr Joseph Rauh, a veteran civil liberties lawyer, said at the time. "If it would bring one hostage home one minute sooner, one might consider it. But it won't bring one hostage home. You don't answer the outrages of the ayatollah (Khomeini) by mistreating people in your own country."

President Carter's second act was to invalidate all visas issued to iIranians for entry into the United States. Those here would not leave and come back, separated families could not be reunited in this country.

The consequence, says Mr David Carliner, an immigration lawyer, was hardship for hundreds of pro-American Iranian businessmen, professionals and government officials who, even before the Shah was overthrown, had fled to the United States.

An Iranian who wanted to go home to see his dying father, Mr Carliner said, was told it would take 45 days before he could leave if he wanted advance permission to return. Five Iranians who were University of Idaho students on a field trip to Canada on the day President Carter acted were denied readmission to the United States.

Mr Carliner, who acts for the American Civil Liberties Union, is a member of the national advisory council of Amnesty International and author of *Rights of Aliens*, said the United States failed to distinguish between Iranian critics and supporters of Ayatollah Khomeini.

Thispolicy, he said, resulted in "harsh feelings towards the United States on the part of people who are going to become the business leaders, professionals and government leaders in their own country oneday".
—AP.

Thatcher hope for Britons

Mrs Thatcher told the House of Commons she hoped the release of the hostages "will augur well for release of our own people".

She said the Government continually tried to secure access to British subjects—including missionaries—held in Iran for five months "without any charge against them".

Britain sends two more diplomats to Tehran

By David Spanier
Diplomatic Correspondent

Two Diplomats have flown out from London to Tehran to strengthen the British interests section of the Swedish Embassy there, the Foreign Office announced yesterday.

The British complement is now four: Mr Edmund Barratt, a First Secretary, who has been in Tehran throughout the recent crisis, joined by Mr David Brett, an Administrative Officer in November, and now Mr Christopher Rundle, a First Secretary, and Mr Robert Mansfield, a Third Secretary, who was in the British Embassy before it was shut down last September.

The reason for increasing the size of the British interests section, the Foreign Office said, was "to cope with Britain's residual responsibilities in Iran".

It was emphasized yesterday that the decision to send out the two diplomats was not connected with the release of the American hastoges, or with the four British citizens in detention. Naturally the freeing of the four Britons remains their first priority.

On his retrn tou London from Brussels last night, Lord Carrington said that if economic sanctions were removed, there would be much more for British diplomats to do in Tehran. The increase in British representation wa salso designed to help the four detainees.

He very much hoped that after the expression of support of the European Community, the Iranians woul dapprepriate the strength of European feeling on the matter, and release the British detainees, whom they knew to be innocent.

However, the arrival of the diplomats is far from signalling a return to "full friendship" with Iran, or even normal relations.

The British Embassy is shut, and is likely to remain so while the four Britons are held without charges or consular rights. But the risk of British diplomats being seized as seemed quite possible at one time, is now judged to have receded.



Final hurdle: Mr Carter, in almost his last act as President, signs the document that finally secured freedom for the hostages.

Sterling rise anticipates move of unfrozen funds

By Frances Williams

The pound folowed Monday's rapid ascent against the dollar with further gains yesterday, amid speculation that part of Iran's unfrozen dollar assets wil be diversified into sterling. In fairly quiet tradin git rose 1.25 cents to close at $2.4195, after touching $2.4250 early in the day.

Its effective exchange rate index, measured against a basket of currencies, ended the day at 80.2—matching the five-year peak reached in the first wee kof November.

The dollar was fairly steady against continental currencies but weakened against the yen, another curency thought likely to benefit from diversification of Iran's dollar holdings.

The overall steadiness of the dollar reflects market views that Iran is unlikely to diversify out of dollars on a large scale. It is pointed out that Iran needs dollars to engage in international trade and to repay its debts. In addition, high dollar interest rates make holding the American currency attractive.

IRAN HOSTAGES



American soldiers preparing to put up a welcome banner at the Rhine-Main Air Force base, West Germany, where the hostages were expected after their release from Iran.

Embassy seizure used as weapon to destroy Iranian middle class

From Robert Fisk
Beirut, Jan 20

One of the painful ironies of the hostages' release is that the man who really brought it about was no friend of the United States.

President Saddam Husain does not even allow the Americans to maintain an embassy in the Iraqi capital but it was his military assault across the Shatt al-Arab river towards Abadan that finally persuaded the Iranians to start serious negotiations for the release of the 52 American diplomats.

You cannot win wars without spare parts and foreign credit and so the hostages began their journey home as sole beneficiaries of one of the decade's most unnecessary conflicts. Given the events of the past fourteen and a half months, it was perhaps only fitting that a crisis which served domestic political ends inside Iran more than it did any coherent international policy should have ended in so mundane a way.

For if the seizure of the United States Embassy in Tehran had demonstrated Iran's contempt for American power, it became almost immediately a weapon in the hands of those who wished to destroy the Iranian middle classes who had played so important a part in overthrowing the monarchy.

While the United States and most of the Western world debated the implications of Iranian demands for the return of the Shah and his wealth in the late autumn of 1979, they failed to realize that the embassy takeover had served other purposes.

It broke the government of Mr Mehdi Bazargan, the gentle but almost totally ineffectual Prime Minister whom Ayatollah Khomeini appointed in the aftermath of the Revolution and then, in the succeeding weeks, it destroyed much more devastatingly other bourgeois figures of the revolutionary struggle.

The Islamic students who occupied the embassy began to unearth confidential documents from the embassy files which allegedly proved the connivance of leading Iranian politicians with the American CIA.

They led to the arrest of Mr Amir Entezam, the former Deputy Prime Minister in the Bazargan Government and to the flight of Mr Mogadam-Maraghi, the leader of the Radical Party.

The former head of Iran's nationalized oil company had to leave the country and several *Majlis* (Parliament) deputies were later forced to resign their seats. The incriminations stretched to the leftist parties and even, in a vague but none the less menacing way, to Ayatollah Shariat-Madari, the holy Azerbaijani rival to Ayatollah Khomeini.

The embassy seizure was therefore used to consolidate power in the hands of those clergy who were faithful to the man who led the revolution. The condemnation of the United States as the "Great Satan" and the uncomfortable evidence of American interference in Iranian affairs—though no less genuine in its utterance or effect—was secondary to this process. The hostages helped to cleanse the Iranian revolution of its middle classes and, when they had served their purpose, it was inevitable that one day they would be released.

It is equally inevitable, now they have been freed, that there must be some realignment of Iran's idealistic, semi-visionary and impractical foreign policy. Those representatives of the middle classes who survived the purge have already laid the foundations for this shift.

Mr Sadeq Qotbzadeh, the newly retired Foreign Minister, for example, repeatedly warned Iranians against Soviet interference in their country, brusquely expelling a Soviet Embassy official for spying last summer.

Only last week, clerical voices could be heard muttering similar suspicions about Soviet ambition in Iran. It was not by chance that the Iranians permitted Afghan demonstrators to attack the Soviet Embassy compound three weeks ago.

If Iran now enters a period of self-imposed isolation, therefore, the Russians can expect some of the odium previously shown towards the United States to be directed at them. In this sense, the Soviet Union has become a loser now that the hostage crisis is over and the Americans can no longer be embarrassed on a daily basis.

The parties of the left in Iran have already been forced underground and the pro-Moscow Tudeh Communist Party—which has studiously mouthed every sentiment of Ayatollah Khomeini—is unlikely to go into sudden opposition.

Clearly some new instrument of power will have to be found by the religious and lay groups jockeying for position in Tehran. Ayatollah Khomeini's health has taken on the qualities of Mao Tse-tung's in the years before his death—he is constantly reported to be weakening and yet more constantly making a robust appearance before his visitors—but everyone in Iran is aware that the old man is unlikely to live much longer (he is once said to have predicted his own death by assassination in 1981).

The forces now competing to fill the vacuum that he will leave are only too evident in the Revolutionary Council whose titular head—President Bani-Sadr—has little or no power over divines like Ayatollah Beheshti who has by dint of almost Machiavellian principles gained control of both the legislature and the judiciary in Iran.

He effectively undercut President Bani-Sadr's executive power when he insisted that the President's choice of Prime Minister should first gain the endorsement of his Islamic Republican Party. It is around Mr Bani-Sadr's head that the vortex of power is likely to whirl more fiercely than ever now that the hostages have gone home.

It will suit America if Mr Bani-Sadr survives this power struggle. The United States believes that lay politicians rather than the clergy can bring stability back to Iran—and stability is something that both the Americans and the Russians earnestly want to see restored to the country.

Since Mr Bani-Sadr is now commander-in-chief of the Army in its war against Iraq, it is equally in America's interest to see the Iranians bring the conflict in the Gulf to a speedy and successful conclusion.

Whether the United States had some hand in encouraging President Husain's ambitions (the conspiracy theory of history will inevitably maintain that it did), President Reagan is in a position to give substantial aid to Mr Bani-Sadr.

Spare parts for Iranian weapons and the Iranian Air Force's over-extended fleet of Phantom fighter-bombers would be just the first example of such assistance.

Just how this help could be given is another matter. It is inconceivable that the Americans will be able to retake possession of their Tehran embassy in the near future. It is inconceivable that they would want to.

The Stars and Stripes will not fly over Tehran for many months yet, unless the new American Administration embarks on some vengeful and unthinkable military adventure against Iran.

It is just possible that a neutral embassy could contain an American interests section and that such an office could restore and maintain the economic links between the United States and Iran without the indiscretion of political friendship. The Americans really will have to resist the temptations of involvement in Iranian affairs but contact there will have to be as even the Iranian clergy must be privately aware.

If the country's devastated oilfields can be repaired by other nations, the hard currency to pay for this industrial renaissance will have to come from the United States.

Arabs fear effects on Gulf security

From Our Own Correspondent
Beirut, Jan 20

Arab leaders generally welcomed the Algiers agreement to end the hostage crisis although some Gulf states were clearly unhappy about the effect this might have on the war between Iran and Iraq. Several newspapers in the emirates posed this question but it was left to Mr Muhammad Yamani, the Saudi Information Minister, to define Arab anxiety in the region.

He hoped that the release of the 52 Americans would not generate "any negative effect on Gulf security", adding: "We should not precede events. We do not think there is anything for us to fear. But we have to be cautious."

The Saudis and Gulf states want to know if there is a secret price to be paid by the United States for the hostages' release. If this is true—and if it is to be paid in extra war material for Iran—then the Gulf war could grow in intensity.

The Palestine Liberation Organization, which tried to mediate between Tehran and Washington in the early days of the Embassy takeover, expressed the hope that yesterday's events would "serve the cause of peace" in the Middle East.

Less charitable words came from President Sadat of Egypt who let it be known—through an American Congressman—that the United States had been "vacillating, contradictory and wavering" in dealing with Iran over the hostages. According to a transcript of his meeting with Mr James Sbeuer, the Democratic Representative for New York, Mr Sadat felt that the Americans should have "gone in there (Iran)".

Mr Sadat, who gave the late Shah his final place of exile, has not previously commented on American attempts to release the hostages.

Future of embargoed ship hinges on negotiations

By Ronald Kershaw
Northern Industrial Correspondent

The future of the Iranian-owned naval supply vessel, the 20,000-ton Kharg, lying in the River Tyne and held by a Department of Trade embargo, was still uncertain last night, the subject of highly sensitive political negotiations.

The lightly armed ship, with no crew on board, is lying outside the Walker Yard of Swan Hunter, which built the vessel to the order of the late Shah of Iran. The ship was launched four years ago by a relative of the Shah, a member of the Pahlavi family, and took longer to complete than expected because of various changes in specification that were requested.

The ship was handed over by British Shipbuilders last April and accepted by the owners, the Iranian Government, and the final instalment was paid. An Iranian crew went on board but the sailing was halted when the Department of Trade refused to grant an export licence as a result of trade sanctions against Iran decided by EEC foreign ministers in retaliation for the seizure of the American hostages. The situation is now complicated by Iran holding a number of British people.

The Iranian crew were on board for the final fitting-out of the ship and then in September last year were summoned back to Iran. Since then, the ship has been deserted, with security checks being carried out by the Tyne Harbourmaster's Department.

Conflict with Iraq may be raised at Islamic summit

Taif, Saudi Arabia, Jan 20.—Iran has said it will attend a ministerial meeting to prepare for Sunday's Islamic summit, Prince Sand al-Faisal, the Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister, announced today.

But the Prince told reporters he did not know whether Iran's decision to come to the meeting, now moving towards a close, meant that it would attend. The war betfeen Iran and Iraq will be a topic at the three-day summit, along with the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

However, Iran has said it will not come to the summit if President Saddam Husain of Iraq attends; and last night Baghdad announced that the President would head its delegation.

The summit is being organized by the 42-member Islamic Conference Organization.

Conference sources said the ministerial meeting, which began last Thursday, might complete its work tonight. Some delegates here have said they believe that if Iran disposes of the issue of the American hostages, it might be inclined to use the summit platform to put its side of the conflict with Iraq.

Conference sources said there was fear among Gulf countries that the agreement on freeing the hostages could increase Iran's military potential by unblocking thousands of millions of dollars in Iranian funds frozen by the United States.

The sources said there was long, heated debate over Afghanistan in a subcommittee considering a draft declaration which will be a key document to be laid before the summit.—Reuter.

Guest Column

Accustomed as I have become to public speaking . . .

Dame Josephine Barnes, immediate past-president of the British Medical Association, contributes this week's guest article.

Anyone in public life is likely to be invited to give a memorial lecture, and several have come my way. I have also had the opportunity of listening to many since, as a medical student, I heard Lord Moynihan, the distinguished surgeon, deliver the Annual Romanes Lecture at Oxford.

The invitation will be made some months before the date and there is ample time for preparation. But as the moment draws near the time for preparation gets shorter and shorter. Since most of my lectures deal with a medical or paramedical subject there are slides to prepare, references to check and, if the text is to be published, the text itself must be written, rewritten, checked and rehearsed. In a busy life this task is all too easily put off until the last moment.

Several principles should guide the prospective speaker. The lecture must be the right length. Allowing for an introduction and a vote of thanks, the whole proceedings should last about an hour.

Clearly the subject should be of interest to the likely audience. In my case the listeners are likely to be either academic or medical, and some will know much more about the subject than I do. On the other hand a lay audience should not be puzzled by obscure references to abstruse medical topics. So the balance must be right.

The lecture must refer to the person commemorated and have some relevance to *his or her life and work. I have* never had the good fortune to present an original and striking advance in medicine, as for example, when Mr Patrick Steptoe gave the Jennifer Hallam Memorial Lecture last year on extra-corporeal fertilization—in lay terms, test-tube babies. But advances in medicine, particularly in obstetrics and gynaecology, have been so notable in my lifetime that it is generally possible to find advances which have improved and enhanced the lives of women and their babies.

The first such lecture I was asked to give was the annual Fawcett Lecture at Bedford College, London. This commemorates Dame Millicent Fawcett, younger sister of Elizabeth Garrett Anderson and a pioneer in securing votes for women. This lecture was due near the time of the centenary of Elizabeth Garrett Anderson's qualification in medicine; she founded the hospital which bears her name one year later. Thus an obvious topic was the history of women in medicine.

The next was the annual Dame Juliet Rhys-Williams lecture to the National Birthday Trust Fund, founded in 1928 by Lady George Cholmondeley and Lady Baldwin for the improvement of maternity services, then woefully *deficient. Lady Rhys-Williams* was for many years its chairman and, though a lay-woman in medical terms, knew more about maternity services than most doctors.

She was a leading figure in providing aid to the women of the Rhondda Valley during the 1930s, when maternal mortality was soaring. She was a member of the Birkett Interdepartmental Committee on abortion which reported in 1939 and which laid the foundation for the 1967 Abortion Act. She initiated surveys of maternity services and was a pioneer in the provision of pain relief for women in childbirth.

This lecture was an opportunity to trace the history and achievements of the Fund.

The invitation to deliver the Winston Churchill Memorial Lecture at Canterbury presented problems. The lecture was to be given at the Postgraduate Medical Centre and was to deal with midwifery. Although I have read many of Sir Winston's works and of course am familiar with his remarkable life I could not think of anything relevant to my topic. However, Lady Spencer-Churchill kindly lent me a splendid photograph of her husband which was made into a lantern slide and bequeathed to the founder of the lecture. I hope it is still used when the lecture is given.

The next invitation came from Dublin and was to deliver the annual Bartholomew Mosse Oration. Bartholomew Mosse was the founder of the Rotunda Lying-in Hospital. I chose to talk about the teaching of obstetrics, based on what I had learnt from my own teachers.

In 1977 I was invited to give the annual Simpson Memorial Lecture. This commemorates the life and work of Sir James Young Simpson of Edinburgh, an outstanding figure in nineteenth century medicine, Physician to the Queen in Scotland and the first doctor to use chloroform as an anaesthetic. This gave an opportunity to talk about some of Simpson's contemporaries who helped to develop his ideas.

As I was preparing to go I heard on the radio that a power cut was imminent. The lecture had to be delivered in almost total darkness. It was impossible to show the many slides I had prepared and to read my text I was provided with a storm lantern which made it impossible to see anything else.

A similar hazard was encountered last year at the annual lecture of the Liverpool Medical Institution. A BBC television crew were filming but I was so dazzled by the lights that I could not see the screen and got in a fearful muddle with the slides.

The invitation to deliver the Sophia Lecture to the University of Newcastle upon Tyne this year was a considerable challenge as the first had been delivered by Dame Veronica Wedgwood. I could not hope to aspire to her erudition so I decided to talk about the medical scene as I had witnessed it under the title "Twentieth Century Gynaecologist".

The Sophia lecture was established in memory of Ellen Sophia Bosanquet, who went up to Somerville in 1896. She married the archaeologist R. C. Bosanquet and they lived in Greece and in Liverpool, where he was Professor of Classical Archaeology.

In paying my tribute I ended by saying that in the future I would most like to see more emphasis on preventive medicine.

It has been a tremendous honour to be invited to give these lectures. There is always the feeling that in the time available it is possible only to pay scant respect to the life and work of the person commemorated. Rather, one is revealing something of oneself, if not as a person, at least a part of what it is possible for one person to achieve in a lifetime.

Dame Josephine, relaxing at her grand piano.

Social Focus

The happy triumph of one deaf child

Two accounts were recently published in *The Times* about the education of handicapped children. In the first, Mrs Claire Tomalin recounted her unsuccessful attempt to persuade the Inner London Education Authority to allow her physically handicapped, mentally normal son to be educated within the normal school system rather than in a special school.

The second account, from Yicee Josefina Marrero-Ardila, related her own happy and successful education at the special school attended by Mrs Tomalin's son, and contained a moving tribute to the skill and dedication of her teachers.

Here in the Midlands a choice is available for parents of handicapped children between education in special schools or special units and education within the normal state system, backed by specially trained peripatetic teachers who use a wide range of sophisticated equipment.

Giles was born with a severe hearing loss. He has some residual hearing, which can be increased by small hearing aids worn on the ears. But where hearing loss is severe too much amplification produces distortion and then pain. The hearing aid that he uses most successfully is a receiver strapped to his chest which picks up the teacher's voice transmitted through a micriphone worn round the teacher's neck.

The receiver can be set to receive only the teacher's voice, or the background noise within classroom and playground as well. Giles is not a deaf child whose handicap can be reduced to normality by the wearing of a hearing aid, as a poorly sighted child can have normal sight restored by wearing glasses.

Children gain an enormous amount of background experience aurally in the pre-school years, but Giles had to depend largely on his mother to interpret the world around him. With immense patience and *skill, she set about teaching* him to speak, lip-read and communicate with others. Giles went to a nursery where there were other deaf children—and his mother had skilled specialist help there in her task of helping him to learn.

When Giles was four a decision had to be taken about his primary school. Deaf children with his degree of hearing loss are usually educated in special schools or special units, but Giles's parents wanted him to attend a local school. Their reasons were the same as Mrs Tomalin's; they felt that Giles was being isolated from normal contact with other children in the neighbourhood by attending a nursery on the other side of town. They did not want him to enter a special school for the deaf a long way from home where he would be taught with other children handicapped like himself. They believed that he needed to live in an environment of hearing people to have the stimulus to make the most of his residual hearing.

It is a tremendous effort for a deaf child to use residual hearing and lip-read constantly, and it is very much easier for him to retire into a world of silence and signing.

Giles showed signs of being intellectually able and his health was normal for a child of his age, so his parents pressed the authority to allow him to enter a normal primary school when he reached school age.

The authority agreed, and Giles entered the reception class in his local school with the other four-year-olds in the neighbourhood. Three times a week a peripatetic teacher of the deaf came to the school and gave him special tuition for 75 minutes. She brought the electronic aids that can help deaf children so much; she brought her own special knowledge and skills, and she was available to help, advise and reassure his class teacher, who had had no previous experience of teaching deaf children.

The class teacher in turn could inform the peripatetic teacher of the kind of work that had been done in class, the areas where Giles seemed to need extra help or extra background knowledge, or aspects of work that had interested him particularly.

Like other four-year-olds, Giles was expected to adapt gradually to having less adult attention than a toddler, to being part of a larger social group. He had to share his class teacher with nearly 30 other children; he had to share toys and equipment in class; he had to share the playground with bigger children. We found he was accepted by the other children as one of themselves, and he learnt to accept himself as one of a group of normal children. He made friends with other children who lived near him, as his mother had hoped. His social contacts were no longer confined to other handicapped children or specially arranged contacts with children of his parents' friends.

As he grew older Giles kept up with the other children in his class. His speech improved steadily, and with his ability to communicate with hearing children came the ability to construct proper grammatical sentences. Many deaf children never learn to construct sentences, since they do not hear complete sentences but only pick out isolated words. The lack of properly constructed language is a source of immense frustration.

Giles learnt to read well, and books provided him with a proper language, a steadily expanding vocabulary and a range of concepts and general knowledge wider than those of many hearing children. He joined in all the normal activities of the other children, taking part in outings and plays, at first in silent parts, and later, as he learnt to project his voice, in speaking parts in front of an audience of other children or parents.

By the age of eight his reading skill was well above average, and he was able to start filling in for himself *some of the gaps left by his* late acquisition of language. His parents and his peripateic teacher continued to expand his experience as much as possible. When he was nine, he learnt to swim in the ordinary *school swimming class. He had* to take out his hearing aids and insert ear plugs before entering the water, so in the pool he had to rely entirely on lip-reading and gesture—but he learnt.

It was not long before he went up proudly in school assembly to receive his Amateur Swimming Association 25-metre badge. A few weeks later he went up again, to receive the cycling proficieacy certificate awarded by the police.

Giles is still being educated in the same way. He can make himself understood clearly to a stranger, and he is not shy. He mixes happily with normal children without expecting much in the way of special concessions. You must face him when you talk to him and it helps to use appropriate gestures, that is all.

When Giles is 16 he *will* have to enter the normal world of work or further or higher education. It will be much less of a shock for him, after a childhood spent in an ordinary school, playing, learning and competing with hearing children, than if he had spent his childhood in a special school. His parents' decision to ask for him to be educated in an ordinary school seems to have been fully justified. As they hoped, his speech has improved enormously through living and working with hearing people. He has also proved, to *them and to others and to him*self, that he can adapt and be one of a group of normal people. He can be a person who happens to be deaf, not simply a handicapped person.

Of course, education in a normal school would not be suitable for every handicapped child. Giles had some residual hearing which he could be taught to make full use of; he was not totally deaf. He had reasonably good health, so he did not spend long spells away from school, ill at home or in hospital.

He was of at least average intelligence, so he could benefit from the intellectual stimulus of his peers, and was not frustrated by constant failure to keep up with the rest of the class. Finally, his parents were enthusiastically in favour of his education in an ordinary school, and were eager to cooperate in any way which could help him join in ordinary activities. For Giles, this was the right form of education.

Other handicapped children, with poor health or in need of prolonged hospital treatment, or with impaired mental powers, could not benefit from the stimulus of the rough and tumble of a normal school as he has done. It would be a pity if children who could benefit from being educated in a normal school were denied the opportunity simply because the authorities do not believe it can work. Those of us who had the privilege of teaching Giles *know that it can work.*

Elizabeth Roe

Should home births be ruled out?

Although childbirth in Britain has never been safer there is little room for complacency because several of our European neighbours report *lower* death rates for mothers and babies. Our death rate among newborn babies is still 50 per cent higher than that in Sweden. We are not among the leaders nor is the baby death rate falling as fast as it is in some countries.

We can, however, claim credit for a unique system of confidential inquiries into maternal deaths which has, since 1952, given detailed information about the reasons for these deaths and has allowed experienced assessors to identify those deaths that might have been avoided had management been in accordance with the best standards of accepted practice.

Responsibility for "avoidable factors" in these maternal deaths is shared by doctors, nurses, administrators and patients. The educational value of these reports—issued every three years—is widely acclaimed and it is acknowledged that they have contributed notably to raising the standard of obstetric practice.

But the impact on *patients* and their families is less sure for they are unlikely to study the reports. This is a pity, for almost half of the problems that led to death during pregnancy and were judged to be avoidable were directly the responsibility of the patient or her relatives—mostly a matter of ignoring medical advice.

The complex mix of social and medical factors that lead to baby deaths has been studied extensively in the United Kingdom. Many more babies die than mothers and it is possible to examine reasons and trends with greater assurance. Earlier this year the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys published information on baby deaths in England and Wales related to the place of confinement—information not previously available—and showed that since 1975 there has been a steady fall in mortality among babies delivered in consultant staffed maternity units.

On the other hand there has been a rise in mortality rates among babies delivered at home or in small units staffed by family doctors. This in spite of the fact that mothers expected to have difficult deliveries are mostly booked for consultant units or transferred there if complications appear.

In 1977 the mortality among babies delivered at home was actually higher than in consultant units. In the face of these facts it is hardly surprising that the House of Commons Committee chaired by Mrs. Renée Short, recommended in its 1980 report that more women should be delivered in large well equipped consultant units, and that there ought to be more careful selection of women admitted to small units especially those staffed by family doctors. Home delivery, in the committee's view (taking into account the extensive evidence presented to it) should be "phased out further".

Many would argue that these safety considerations are paramount but some mothers would give equal weight to their emotional needs in pregnancy and labour and a few, I *suspect*, would go further and opt for home confinement arguing that their feeling of emotional satisfaction, security and happiness in known surroundings outweighs any risk. But kindness, humility and consideration for women in pregnancy and labour are not the prerogative of those who work in domiciliary surroundings or affect the mantle of some system of childbirth that happens to be fashionable.

There must be hundreds of thousands of women in Britain deeply grateful for the expert and kindly attention offered them in their local maternity units. This is not to say that all is for the best in our maternity hospitals. Much could and should be done to make the physical surroundings and general arrangements more congenial—more likely to be achieved where the professional staff regularly meet patients and their husbands to discuss possible improvements in an informal atmosphere; and reasons for changes in *practice* and results achieved could equally well be discussed.

The great mistake would be to return in any significant measure to home confinement, setting the clock back 50 years and losing many of the advances won so dearly over this period. One dangerous fallacy is to believe that an obstetric emergency service can deal effectively with unexpected complications that arise during a home confinement.

Extensive experience with the Newcastle upon Tyne "flying squad" between 1950 and 1960 convinced me that this is not possible. One drawback is the time it takes to reach the home (with today's traffic it would take even longer). Another is that it may be the help of a paediatrician, a physician or a laboratory technician as much as the experience or manipulative skill of an obstetrician that is required. And *patients' expectations* are higher today than they were 30 years ago when death and morbidity rates were appreciably higher. It is more reasonable and more economical to centre highly skilled staff on hospitals rather than move them around the countryside.

I do not know how one measures happiness but it is a fair assumption that safer childbirth would mean less distress. Central to the theme of safer childbirth is the fact that fatalities among mothers and babies could be reduced by 30 to 50 per cent and place us among the leaders were we to make full use of the knowledge we already have.

The medical and nursing professions can do so much but the public have still to be educated to appreciate that there is a significant, personal responsibility for health and this is nowhere seen more clearly than in childbirth.

Knox Russell

The author is head of the University Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Princess Mary Maternity Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne.

PARLIAMENT, January 20, 1981

Some defence items deferred: plans must fit resources

House of Commons

Next year's defence budget is expected to be about £12,250m, more than £1,000m higher than this year's budget, Mr John Nott, Secretary of State for Defence, said in a statement on defence expenditure. To Conservative cheers, he said that this accorded with the Government's determination to give the highest priority to defence in the face of the growing threat from the Warsaw Pact and represented an increase in proportion of gross domestic product devoted to defence.

The main changes he proposed accelerated the phasing out of some older equipment, the deferment of certain equipment procurements, the trimming of works and training programmes and further reduction of overheads.

Mr Nott said: In the financial year 1981-82 defence expenditure should rise to £9,753m at 1980 survey prices. This takes account of the reduction of £200m in planned expenditure announced earlier by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. This figure is about 8 per cent more in real terms than the defence out-turn in 1978-79, the last year of the previous government.

So far as this year is concerned we are likely to exceed the 3 per cent Nato aim but until the out-turn is clear we cannot assess the distribution of growth between this year and next. In cash terms, although the cash limit has not yet been finalized, next year's defence budget is expected to be of the order of £12,250m, more than £1,000m higher than the budget this year.

The scale of the increase, in relation to the containment of expenditure on other programmes, fully accords with the Government's expressed determination which I reaffirm today, of giving the highest priority to our defence in the face of the growing threat from the Warsaw Pact. It also represents an increase in defence expenditure per head at a time when the proportion of our GDP devoted to defence is already much higher than that of our main European allies, and close to that of the United States.

Let me make it plain beyond doubt that I share without qualification the objectives stated by my predecessor in the House to sustain and improve the front line quality of our forces and of our contribution to the alliance, which remains the cornerstone of our security and the ultimate safeguard of our freedom against any aggression.

In accordance with these objectives, I can confirm that next year the major programme of improvements will continue. Even *after trimming* recruitment, there will be over 5,000 more regulars in our Services than in this financial year. A nuclear powered fleet submarine, two new air-defence destroyers, an anti-submarine frigate and several other vessels will enter service; other new warship orders, including anti-submarine carriers, nuclear-powered submarines, destroyers and frigates, together with major maritime weapon systems such as Stingray and Sub-Harpoon, will be moving forward; substantial further orders for ships and other naval equipment will be placed; and the Trident programme is under way.

The Army's new Challenger tank, the new armoured personnel carrier, the Milan anti-tank and Rapier and Blowpipe air defence systems and the Ptarmigan and Clansman communications systems continue in procurement. Deliveries under the very large Tornado programme, the core of the RAF's future capability, will be accelerating.

Contrary to some reports, development work on the Sea Eagle anti-ship missile will continue although further consideration will be needed before its place in the programme can be confirmed. Large sums will be spent on the Nimrod airborne early warning aircraft, improvement of our Harrier and Jaguar capability, and air-to-air defence missiles. We spend a bigger proportion of our defence budget on major equipment than any other Nato country. Next year we shall spend over £5,000m on equipment, which will sustain hundreds of thousands of jobs, many in the highest fields of technology.

Nevertheless, there remain hard choices, for next year and further ahead. The problems are well known to the House, but they are worth recalling briefly. The real cost of defence equipment, much of it inevitably highly sophisticated to counter the threat, continues to rise. The recession has led industry to concentrate more heavily *on defence work, which means* that certain equipment has come forward faster than we expected. This is to the benefit of our Services but has continuing effects on our cash flow. With so much of the programme already committed, it is not easy to make adjustments quickly.

Defence, like other departments, has to make adjustments every year, in all sorts of ways, to fit its programme to planned expenditure, but for the reasons I have given the scale this year is more extensive *than usual. In order* to avoid continuing speculation and uncertainty harmful to the Services and to industry, I think it right to give the House before the defence White Paper is published an early indication of the character of these adjustments.

The main changes which I propose accelerate the phasing out of some older equipment, the deferment of certain equipment procurements, the trimming of our works and training programmes, and further reduction of overheads; in *essence*, to concentrate our resources where they are most valuable. Some older ships of the Royal Navy will be sold or scrapped; HMS Bulwark will be disposed of about six months earlier than planned and the planned reductions in the Vulcan force and Shackleton airborne early warning aircraft and the rundown of Canberra photographic reconnaissance squadrons will be accelerated.

There will be some adjustment to the forward warship construction *programme which will* involve the slowing down of a number of orders. Logistic support road vehicles, Jetstream and Hawk aircraft orders will be deferred. The Skyflash Mk 1 missile will continue, but instead of the Sky Flash Mk 2 we will proceed with a programme to demonstrate a new technology for short-range air-to-air missiles. To save overheads, No 41 Commando *will* merge with other Commandos, without reduction in the present overall, strength of the Royal Marines and with a *continuing* Royal Marine presence in Deal for the time being.

The Naval Communications Squadron at Lee-on-Solent *will be* disbanded. The extra Lightning squadron will not be formed as planned but we shall provide for a squadron to be found out of training units which could rapidly be made operational in emergency.

I turn to the future beyond next year's estimates. In accordance with the expressed objectives of Nato, *it* is our aim to continue from the revised 1981-82 base line an annual increase in defence expenditure in real terms in the region of 3 per cent. Even with an increase in expenditure, however, we face, as do other countries, a major task in matching resources to our clear defence needs, a task made more difficult for us than for other countries because of our low growth.

Talk of apocalyptic choices between key defence tasks is wide of the mark; but we must, over the next year or so, look realistically at our programmes in order to match them to the resources which may be available. We shall do this in an alliance context and, we hope, in close concert with our allies. But let it be clear that whatever our economic problems, the maintenance of effective security within and through the alliance remains an overriding commitment of this Government.

Expenditure will rise by 3% a year from revised base

Mr Brynmor John, chief Opposition spokesman on defence (Pontypridd, Lab) questioning Mr Nott on his statement, said: I welcome the statement which, contrary to the election pledges of the Government, is a tiny recognition of the reality that defence is bound up with the economy and cannot hope to be insulated from the disastrous performance of the economy *under the present Government*.

What is the total saving he envisages in financial terms when taking account of the equipment rundown? What are the employment consequences of the cancellation of certain projects?

What is to happen to the £400m overspend which the ministry managed to achieve this year? Is it to be written off, to be found within the defence budget or worse still, to be found from some other department's requirements, *rather than from the Ministry of Defence?*

On what basis have the cuts been singled out? Has there been consideration of defence priorities in arriving at this, and, if so, what reasons led to the cancellation of the projects we have heard about?

Should he not start a careful examination of defence expenditure and the commitments we have undertaken to see what is a sensible approach to Nato in future, rather than simply to maintain all our commitments on a reduced and less effective scale?

The whole history of defence planning has been of equality of misery with each Service taking a proportionate share of cuts.

It is about time we looked at the priorities, in the light of changed circumstances, to see what are the most important.

He should at least examine again the Trident project, the acquisition of which would add little or nothing to the alliance deterrent but its acquisition is likely, increasingly, to prevent carrying out the wider range of tasks of the Nato alliance.

Mr Nott: By the end of next financial year, defence expenditure will have risen about 8 per cent in real terms from the time the Government took office, which is fully in accordance with the express commitments of the party at the last election.

The reduction of £200m announced by the *Chancellor* is the only reduction which has been made in the planned defence budget.

Of course, some adjustments were made on the planned programme. There always are.

The employment consequences of the measures announced will be that some of the jobs which would otherwise have been created by additional planned expenditure will not now be created, but if I understand his party's defence policy, there would be thousands of jobs lost, so that what we are talking about is the number of job opportunities which will not now take place in the way we should have hoped they might have done.

It is likely that the Ministry of Defence will have an overspend this year. We do not know the figure yet.

We have to await the outturn and see what action needs to be taken then. This announcement basically concerns itself with the quicker phasing out of earlier equipment.

The former Secretary of State, Mr Pym, had left him some useful work.

I was able to choose from a range of options he had considered with great care, in conjunction with the Chiefs of Staff, but basically we are seeking to phase out older equipment more quickly.

We have done our best to preserve the new equipment coming forward as well as the procurement programme but we have had to slow down a few of the shipbuilding orders which we would have hoped to bring forward this year.

All the reductions have been made in the light of the defence priorities which I, other ministers and the Chiefs of Staff regard as essential.

An examination of the long-term position takes place every year as a matter of course in the ministry. That will happen, as always, between April and June.

The decision on Trident has been taken, announced, and will remain.

Mr John: Does the minister mean to imply that there are no savings by cutting or phasing out of older equipment? If so, he should say that there are no savings, because the way he put the statement implied that he hoped for savings in the equipment programmes. If so, he should put a figure on it.

What are the employment implications of the slow down in warship building? Why can he put no figure on it so that loyal staff in the shipyards can know what blow will hit them next?

Mr Nott: I have explained where the savings will fall. I have explained that we are talking about £200m cuts in what was otherwise planned.

On the shipbuilding side, I must discuss with British Shipbuilders how next year's programme will be allocated between yards. We can then make a firm estimate of the jobs affected, but our defence bill will have increased by 8 per cent in real terms and that is nothing like the number affected by the policies adopted by the different parties on the other side of the House.

Dr David Owen (Plymouth, Devonport, Lab): This country cannot continue to have both a major contribution to BAOR and a major maritime contribution to the Western Alliance. A strategic choice will have to be made. If he is to reduce employment opportunities by 32,000 over the next three years in defence establishments, will he protect those parts of Britain where unemployment is already extremely high, particularly the South-West?

Mr Nott: I understand his concern about employment opportunities and take full note of the points he makes about regional *employment. As for future defence strategy*, I have read his views on the subject in an interesting pamphlet he published a short time ago and many of the things he said I shall take account of when I come to consider the normal review of defence which takes place every year.

The kind of stark choice which he poses between the maritime commitment and the central front is unrealistic. We must maintain a balance of forces and there may be changes of emphasis between the two. These are matters which we will have to discuss with our allies.

Mr Enoch Powell (South Down, Off UU): He has in his statement placed great stress on front line capability. In all but the briefest conflict our survival and victory will depend largely upon our second and third line, our industrial and manpower resources and training capabilities. Will he be careful not to be mesmerized by the nuclear theology which prevails?

Mr Nott: I am far from mesmerized by anything, except occasionally him. (Laughter.) I agree that our second and third line behind our forward troops are vital. We will be spending more next year than this year on the Territorial Army and I shall be giving great attention to our reserve forces.

Mr Anthony Buck (Colchester, C): Will he confirm that what he has announced is merely the particularization of decisions that have already been made and he has not been put there as a hatchet man on defence expenditure?

Mr Nott: I cannot imagine how anybody could ever see me in such a light. I shall be just as dedicated to preserving and improving the front line capability of our forces as Mr Pym was. The task he performed when he was in my office was a tremendous one.

Mr Julian Amery (Brighton, Pavilion, C): This is the first time that the Treasury team has managed to oust the defence minister. While we wish him the best of luck, it is up to him to convince the Conservative Party, the House and the country that his appointment does not mean a serious retrenchment in defence expenditure.

Mr Nott: I have not been a member of any Treasury team, if that is the suggestion. I was a *distinguished president* of the Board of Trade. (Laughter.) I shall be in charge of the Ministry of Defence and not the Treasury. I am sure we will work closely together because in the end we are all on the same side.

Mr Michael Mates (Petersfield, C): Will he confirm in simple and unequivocal terms the statement by Mr Francis Pym on October 28 that the Government remained committed to a 3 per cent increase this year, next year and the year after?

Mr Nott: When the public expenditure White Paper is published in March, it will show that for future years we will be planning an increase in defence expenditure of 3 per cent in real terms from the adjusted base from which we are now taking the £200m in planned expenditure.

This is not a cut in real terms. It is a cut in a plan. I am sure he will understand that.

From the revised base we will be planning in future years 3 per cent real growth in volume in defence expenditure. That will be clearly shown when the public expenditure White Paper is published in March.

Mr Nott, answering later questions, said that the commitment of the Government to increasing defence expenditure was clear. Over the three year period it would have increased by 8 per cent in real terms. That might prove to be *greater than that of* Britain's allies. He doubted if many would go higher.

Mr Eldon Griffiths (Bury St Edmunds, C): Does he think the method of cash limits is appropriate when thinking of defence expenditure?

Mr Nott: I do think the cash limit system is absolutely fundamental. We must keep to cash limits because unless we respect money as well as volume we really cannot conduct our affairs sensibly.

The point made by Mr Francis Pym is one I agree with; that it is difficult for the defence department with an enormous procurement programme always to get its expenditure absolutely within cash limits each year.

Mr Neville Trotter (Tynemouth, C): Will he have regard to the export possibilities of different types of warships?

Mr Nott: We are not selling nearly enough warships overseas. As Secretary of State for Trade I have seen that all round the world. We have not sold any major warships for several years and we must put that right.

The announcement I have made will mean there is a reduction in the number of Royal Navy warships available because we are phasing out some of the older ships. Some of them are nearly 20 years old.

Unless we phase out some of the older ships we will not really have room within the programme to bring new warships forward.

Trident the most cost-effective deterrent

Mr John Nott, facing his first question time as Secretary of State for Defence, said he intended to keep his party's commitments on defence and emphasized his belief in the need for a strategic nuclear deterrent, including Trident.

Mr Nott (St Ives, C) told his first questioner, Mr Gwilym Roberts (Cannock, Lab) that Britain's nuclear forces, including Trident, absorbed, or would absorb, only a small proportion of the defence budget.

Mr Roberts: Whatever argument there may be for conventional weapons, there can be no case whatsoever for British nuclear weapons. They make only the minimal contribution to Western defences and in any case we have little or no control over the majority of them.

Mr Nott: The strategic nuclear deterrent is essential to the defence *of the Nato alliance and our* liberty.

Mr David Trippier (Rossendale, C): The planned long range nuclear forces of Cruise missiles and Pershings are not primarily designed to cater for the bolt from the blue nuclear attack.

The exceptional readiness of the strategic nuclear force vested in Polaris and later on in Trident provide the most effective and least costly form of insurance against a massive surprise attack.

Mr Nott: I wholly agree. Trident is the most cost effective way to provide the minimum capability for a viable strategic nuclear deterrent. It should be seen as an integral part of our defence system and not an addition to it.

Mr Alan Beith (Berwick-upon-Tweed, L): Our welcome to the Secretary of State in his new office will depend on whether he keeps to his party's election pledges on defence or uses his Treasury experience to whittle them away.

We cannot afford Trident without impairing the strength of BAOR or our naval commitment to Nato.

Mr Nott: I intend to keep to my party's commitments on defence. I can assure him although I was interested in my time in the Treasury, that is now many years ago.

Our strategic nuclear force, Trident, the successor to Polaris, will only absorb a relatively small part of our total defence budget; approximately 3 per cent on average over the next three years. That is not a large amount of money for the deterrent importance of a strategic nuclear weapon of that kind.

Mr Brynmor John, chief Opposition spokesman on defence (Pontypridd, Lab): *In the peak years the* Trident project will absorb 15 per cent of our equipment budget.

Can he assure the House that none of the other equipment projects planned for the armed forces will have to give way if we go *ahead with Trident project?*

Mr Nott: I do not accept the figure of 15 per cent. In the peak years towards the end of the 1980s Trident will absorb more than the average figure of 3 per cent, but certainly no where near the 15 per cent figure he mentions.

I regard it as being essential to a credible deterrent policy that we have a successor to Polaris, and Trident is the most cost effective way of maintaining it.

Mr Frank Allaun (Salford, East, Lab): In addition to the £5,000m Government estimate for Trident, and such estimates have almost always proved under estimates, will there not be a bill for several billions to cover the crews and maintenance of these weapons and other missiles over the first 10 years?

Nott: We estimate that the running cost of the Trident submarine fleet will probably be around the same percentage as the running of the existing Polaris fleet, which is somewhere around 1.5 per cent of our total defence budget at present.

Mr Foot's request to PM on 'The Times'

Mr Michael Foot, Leader of the Opposition, sought an undertaking from the Prime Minister at question time that if Mr Rupert Murdoch acquired *The Times* and *Sunday Times* she would immediately *refer the matter to the Monopolies* Commission.

Mr Foot (Ebbw Vale, Lab) said: In view of the strong rumours that *The Times* and *Sunday Times* may be acquired by Mr Rupert Murdoch, would she give an undertaking that if this were to occur she would immediately refer the matter to the Monopolies Commission?

Would she also undertake that she would ask them to report with extreme urgency in view of the threat to these newspapers and their possible extinction in March?

Mrs Margaret Thatcher (Barnet, Finchley, C): The Secretary of State for Trade (Mr John Biffen) has so far received no application for consent to transfer any of *The Times* newspapers.

If he does receive such an application, he will have to consider the newspaper merger provisions of the Fair Trading Act of 1973.

Mr Foot: Will the Prime Minister go a little further in trying to protect the position of some of the great newspapers of this country? (Labour cheers.)

Would she not recollect that when Mr Roy Thomson, as he then was—Lord Thomson of Fleet—acquired *The Times* alone in the first place, that was referred to the Monopolies Commission and pledges of independence had to be given?

Would the Prime Minister tell us quite clearly that the Government will refer the matter to the Monopolies Commission and have an urgent report on it in the interests of the newspapers and of their customers in this country?

Mrs Thatcher: I do not think it advisable to state precisely what one will do before an application has even been received. (Conservative cheers.)

We shall wait to see if the Secretary of State for Trade receives an application. We shall apply the law as it is, and apply it precisely.

Tornado programme 'not out of control'

It was absurd to suppose that the United Kingdom economy could carry the cost of the Tornado and Trident programmes, together with other defence commitments, **Mr Frank Hooley** (Sheffield Heeley, Lab) said during defence questions.

He had asked the Secretary of State *for Defence what was now* the total estimated cost of the Tornado programme, and how this compared with the original estimate at constant prices.

Mr Geoffrey Pattie, Under Secretary of Defence for the RAF (Chertsey and Walton, C): The total production cost to the United Kingdom of an order for 220 production GR Mark 1s, and 165 production F Mark 2s, is now estimated to be £4,870m at September 1980 price levels.

At constant price levels, the real increase in the estimated unit production costs of the GR Mark 1 since the start of full development in May 1970 is about 25 per cent, and of the F Mark 2, which entered full development in July 1976, about 6 per cent.

Mr Hooley: Reports from Germany seem to *indicate* that the cost of this machine is getting out of control.

It is quite absurd to suppose that the economy of the United Kingdom can carry Tornado, Trident, BAOR, protection of the North Atlantic, and protection of the air in western Europe.

Mr Pattie: It is interesting to note that the last time this question was asked by Mr Frank Allaun (Salford, East, Lab), the figures were 22 per cent, and 2 per cent respectively.

That was more than two years ago, which indicates the programme is by no means out of control. The Germans have had budgetary difficulties of their own.

Inner city policy

Mr Giles Shaw, Under Secretary for Environment said in a written reply that Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, hoped to make a statement soon on the way ahead for inner city policy.

Change in fire-fighting water charges

The task of preserving Britain's inland waterway system was both onerous and costly, **Mr Giles Shaw**, Under Secretary for the Environment, said moving the second reading of the Water Bill.

Mr Shaw (Pudsey, C) said the Bill *increased the borrowing powers* of the British Waterways Board from £20m to £35m. It also provided that statutory water undertakers *should* not levy charges for making water available for firefighting.

It removed the power of statutory water undertakers to require separate water service pipes to existing houses and enabled them to require separate pipes for all new houses.

Any charge on water for firefighting could be regarded as a bar to public safety. The Government was rightly concerned that there should be no *such* impediment to the installation and use of firefighting equipment in private premises used by the public, bearing in mind the terrible fires at the Woolworth's store in Manchester and hotel fires recently in America.

Mr Denis Howell, an Opposition spokesman on the environment, (Birmingham, Small Heath, Lab) said the Bill was totally irrelevent to the needs of Britain.

There was nothing in the Bill about the great problems of sewage disposal and drainage. The collapse of the antiquated sewage system *built over 200 years ago* was having dire consequences particularly in industrial areas in the North West, the West Midlands, Yorkshire and London.

The Bill switched the cost of providing water from the firefighting industry and commerce on to the domestic householder, which greatly concerned Labour MPs.

The national water dispute could be catastrophic. The two sides had to come together and reach a settlement. It would be unthink*able if this* country *was plunged* into a national water strike with all its dire consequences for public health.

It was an extraordinary proposition. He believed the Government was being subjected to an enormous amount of pressure from the sprinkler manufacturing industry. It had been estimated that the propostion would mean adding 1 per cent to the cost of domestic water charges.

Mr Douglas Hogg (Grantham, C) said the Bill was a convenient vehi*cle for introducing a long desired* piece of law reform. Statutory water undertakers should be made liable for damage caused by the escape of water provided there was a connexion between the escape and the damage.

The Bill was read a second time.

House adjourned, 10.21 pm.

'Stop knocking' design of new vessels

There was a good export potential for the offshore protection vessels which were under construction and people should stop knocking their design, **Mr Keith Speed**, Under Secretary of Defence for the Royal Navy, said.

Mr Stephen Ross (Isle of Wight, L) asked if the minister was still satisfied that the offshore protection vessels already in service and under construction provided the best value for money for the task.

Mr Speed (Ashford, C): Yes.

Mr Ross: *If he is* looking for savings this is one area. There are savings that can be made by using aircraft and ships already under construction or in use in other parts of the country which can do the job more quickly.

Mr Speed: I have seen the two under construction and not yet in commission for the Royal Navy. They will have a significant increase in capability over the Island Class which has done well.

If we stopped knocking this good design—it is good—there is a good export potential. These vessels can operate helicopters, have good endurance and good speed.

Parliamentary notices

House of Commons

Today at 2.30: Debate on Opposition motion on energy policy.

House of Lords

Today at 2.30: Debate on transport policy.

BAOR mans 560 tanks

The initial reaction of European Ministers of Defence showed that Operation Crusader was an outstanding success, **Mr Philip Goodhart**, Under Secretary of Defence for the Army, said during exchanges on the operational readiness of United Kingdom forces stationed on the German Rhine.

Mr Goodhart (Bromley, Beckenham, C): I am confident that British Forces Germany are fully capable of making their major contribution to the implementation of Nato strategy.

Mr Nicholas Winterton, (Macclesfield, C): Many Conservative MPs feel that the readiness of our troops in BAOR is totally inadequate, both in respect of personnel and equipment.

A number of us have received complaints that our troops in BAOR are inadequately provided with ammunition and spares for their equipment.

Mr Goodhart: During the past year the strength of BAOR has increased markedly and due to improved manning levels in the Royal Army Corps some 560 tanks are at present manned in BAOR, compared with 475 in January, 1980.

English for the English

During questions to the Prime Minister, **Mr John Stokes** (Halesowen and Stourbridge, C) said: Has Mrs Thatcher seen the report in the paper today that an industrial *tribunal found BL guilty of* indirect racialism because they demanded that people applying for jobs should fill in the form in English?

Is not this absurd. Can she confirm that English is still the language of England? (Laughter.)

Mrs Thatcher: I wholly agree with Mr Stokes.

PM's hopes for Britons held in Iran

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said she hoped the *release of the American hostages* in Iran would augur well for the release of the British subjects who had been detained there.

She said the Government was continually trying to secure access to the British subjects who had been detained for five months without any charge against them, and would continue to do so.

Air tickets: Minister would like evidence

House of Lords

Lord Trefgarne, Under Secretary of State for Trade, said that if he were given evidence about "bucket shops" breaking air fare regulations he would authorize prosecutions.

Earlier, during questions on discounted tickets, he told **Lady Burton of Coventry** *(Lab): I do not* dispute that there are some agents and sub-agents, presumably in collusion with some airlines, who are selling some tickets at prices below the officially approved level or are in breach of the conditions attached to the particular fare.

Lady Burton of Coventry: Lord Trefgarne has said previously that fares had to be agreed between the two governments concerned. This is nonsense.

Does he suggest the "bucket shops" contact these various governments *before they sell* the tickets?

The tickets are sold at a discount of up to 60 per cent. I have a bucket shop price guide which gives fares available from London.

Lord Trefgarne: What I said was not rubbish. International fares are agreed between governments. Authority given to airlines of every country to operate their services is conditional upon their adhering to the terms of the permits issued, and one of these is the fare to be charged.

This matter was one of the first which came to me when I took up my new post a week or so ago, and I propose to pursue it with the utmost vigour.

Lord Northfield (Lab): As one who buys bucket shop tickets at the nice fares quoted, I would like to know the precise position.

Is it the case that, pending some international agreement on lower fares, the Government is happily conniving at the breaking of the regulations by allowing "bucket shops" to sell at these prices?

Is the Government saying it believes in these international agreements but, on the other hand, it cannot do anything at home to stop them being broken?

Lord Trefgarne: The legal position is not clear. If we had been able to secure the necessary evidence in recent months we would have instituted prosecutions. If the appropriate evidence comes before me in the months to come, I shall authorize prosecutions.

Shaping of constituencies for European parliamentary elections

When the committee stage of the European Assembly Elections Bill began, an Opposition amendment was moved which proposed extending the time from one month to two months during which representations could be made about recommendations published by the Boundary Commission relating to European Assembly constituencies. It was rejected by 298 votes to 233—Government majority, 65.

Mr George Cunningham, an Opposition spokesman on home affairs *(Islington, South and Finsbury,* Lab), moved the first of two amendments to add to the criteria to be taken into account by the Coundary Commission in making European constituencies out of British constituencies that they should have regard to the size, shape and accessibility of the constituencies and have regard to the community of interest and to county boundaries.

He said these were sensible provisions which would make the Boundary Commission's task easier. For the workings of democracy people should be able to identify where they had a representative. Under the amendments it should be possible for the commission to provide European constituencies which had a certain cohesion in the minds of the public.

Mr Russell Johnston (Inverness, L) said he would welcome a Government statement on its attitude on a uniform system of elections if and when agreement was reached at the Council of Ministers.

Mr Patrick Mayhew, Minister of State, Home Office (Royal Tunbridge Wells, C) said that many of the arguments behind the amendments could only be met by having smaller and more numerous European Assembly constituencies, which was not the concern of the Bill.

In practical terms, the concerns expressed by those supporting the amendments had been taken into account by the boundary commissions in their initial reports. It would be practicable to impose statutory duties upon them.

The *amendment was* rejected by 300 votes to 239—Government majority, 61.

The committee stage was concluded.

Mr George Cunningham, an Opposition spokesman on home affairs (Islington, South and Finsbury, Lab) said the only purpose of the Bill was to relieve the Boundary Commission of its obligation to produce its recommendations in respect of European groupings at the same time as it produced its report on the Westminster boundaries.

More relevant was the fact that it gave the Conservative Party something between 15 and 30 seats which they might not have won at the next election. If the commission had to produce its report on both issues at once it looked likely that it could not complete its work in time for it to be implemented by the next election.

Accordingly in this Bill there was a not insignificant Conservative Party interest. Once one perceived a Government bringing forward a Bill which was expected to benefit its party interest everyone should be on their guard. The Conservative Party had brought this Bill forward to secure general election, and that was a disreputable purpose for the Bill.

Mr Patrick Mayhew, Minister of State, Home Office (Royal Tunbridge Wells, C) said the Bill was designed to ensure that the next elections in this country should be fought on a basis that was compatible with democracy.

It was in the interests of all who were concerned for democracy and the proper and effective conduct of elections in the United Kingdom that the Boundary Commission should not be impeded unnecessarily in doing its duty.

The Bill was read the third time by 295 votes to 240—Government majority, 55.

Police must obey law on contempt no less than editors–Lord Chancellor

The police must remember that they must obey the law no less than editors, **Lord Hailsham of St Marlebone**, the Lord Chancellor, said during the resumed committee stage of the Contempt of Court Bill. If editors were provoked by policemen to break the law he knew who was most to blame.

Lord Gardiner, for the Opposition, had moved an amendment to make the "strict liability rule" (where*by conduct tending to interfere* with the course of justice may be treated as contempt of court regardless of intent) apply from the time of charge or service of a summons rather than, as in the Bill, the time of arrest or issue of a warrant.

Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone said the case of Mr Peter Sutcliffe was precisely the point at which the amendment was crucial. On the one vital point of his amendment Lord Gardiner failed to notice *what had happened in the past few* weeks.

If ever (he went on) I had doubts as to whether our judgment about the point of time was right—and I did have doubts—they were dissipated by what happened in that critical case.

There we have a man before charge being brought to the court, being put in fear of his life by a demonstration started by the press and perhaps instigated by members of the police force, and he asks us to accept the amendment without disclosing a word of that.

Lord Gardiner said the Sutcliffe case was at present sub judice. It was no good the Government suggesting that *it* decided to jettison the unanimous report of the Phillimore committee on this point and to choose the opposite period because of that case. The Government had decided this quite apart from Mr Sutcliffe's case.

It was desirable in these days to have laws which, if possible, had the general support of tht public. It was an obstacle to the choice the Government had made that there was unanimous support from legal societies and the press for the solution of the Phillimore report.

Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone said they must not be unduly influenced by recent events, but there had been a great revulsion of feeling since the Sutcliffe case when the public saw the danger of what could be done between arrest and charge.

Although he would look at this again—there might be an intermediate stage—his mind had been much altered and his doubts much reduced by the experience of the past few weeks.

The assumption appears to be made too readily (he continued) that populism in its various forms is always on the side of mercy and freedom. That has not been the experience of my lifetime nor of the last few weeks. It was not *demonstrated outside the magistrates'* court the other day.

On the contrary, it is vital that a man should have a fiar trial. Lord Rawlinson was right when he wrote to The Times that what occurred on that day undermined the presumption of innocence.

He said later that he would be wrong to answer a question on the Sutcliffe case. He would make no comment about whether an offence was committed in that case under existing law. Above the importance *of the freedom of expression* lay the necessity for a fiar trial.

The press were responsible. In that particular case they were in many ways provoked.

What happened (he said) was most unfortunate and I hope that it will never happen again.

The amendment was withdrawn.

Lord Wigoder (L) moved an amendment to leave out a part of the Bill which would bar the press from comment in relation to appeal cases from the moment notice of appeal or application for leave to appeal was made.

He said judges of this status would not be improperly influenced by press comment. There were no juries and almost invariably no witnesses, either.

Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone said judges were human. The courts, too, must be trusted to apply the provisions of the Bill on the scope of strict liability and one must start with the proposition that what was done or complained of created risk that the course of justice would be seriously impeded or prejudiced.

The amendment was withdrawn.

Lord Wigoder, in discussion on Schedule 1 dealing with times when proceedings were active, said Lord Lucan's was by no means an exceptional case involving warrants never executed. But under the Bill the proceedings would remain active indefinitely. So would strict liability.

Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone said the situation would be transformed were Lord Lucan to be arrested tomorrow.

But I fancy (he said) that editors, who have their legal advisers, and sometimes a little intelligence, would realise that after arrest, actions which might prejudice seriously would be taken at their peril.

Lord Gifford (Lab) moved earlier an amendment to restrict the definition of contempt offences which could be committed and dealt with in magistrates' courts.

He said magistrates, for instance, must expect the occasional jibe or insult from people upset at the justice dispensed. The only offence should be wilfully to interrupt the proceedings of the court.

Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, the Lord Chancellor, said courts, on the whole, did put up with a certain amount of insults. The Bill was best left as it was.

Once, at a Norfolk County Court, a witness he had cross-examined suddenly emerged from behind a pillar as he left the court and hit him three times with a rolled umbrella, saying "Young man, you made me out to be a liar. Take that, and that, and that."

Lord Hailsham said he rightly complained. A policeman was called and told off the witness. There the episode ended.

On another occasion, he had been chased down a corridor at the Central Court by some friends of a woman prosecuting his client.

I would have been hat-pinned (he said) but for the fact that a lift suddenly opened its jaws and I leapt in as the doors closed.

This sort of thing could equally *happen in a magistrates' court.* People had a right to be protected in court.

The amendment was withdrawn.

A party to litigation could be in serious contempt of court if he, or his solicitor on his instructions, disclosed to someone else—a newspaper, for *instance*—the contents of documents which had been read out in open court, **Lord Gifford** (Lab) said the layman might be forgiven for thinking that this was an extraordinary state of affairs.

He moved a new clause declaring that the obligation to protect and maintain the confidentiality of the contents of a document disclosed to a party to litigation or his agent terminated if and to the extent that the contents of the document were read aloud in open court in proceedings which were not subject to any limitation on reporting.

Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, the Lord Chancellor, said that the recent Harriet Harman case involving a document read in court had nothing to do with criminal contempt but had everything to do with the law of civil contempt and did not directly affect the freedom *of the press.*

The Bill was designed to implement the Phillimore report related almost entirely to criminal contempt. He was anxious to get the Bill on to the statute book this session. If he opened the field much wider, he would not succeed.

The case concerning the document involved a matter still to be clarified by the courts. It would be wise to wait to see how the matter was dealt with.

In that case, too, there was never a suggestion that the journalist had been guilty of contempt.

The amendment was withdrawn.

The committee stage was concluded.

House adjourned, 7.58 pm.

Number of firms closing and opening

Mr Reginald Eyre, Under Secretary for Trade, in a written reply, said: For the year 1980, provisional figures for England and Wales show 6,876 company liquidations (compulsory plus creditors' voluntary) and 4,000 bankruptcies and deeds of arrangemen (for all individuals and partnerships.

The number of new companies registered in 1980 in England and Wales was 66,104. New sole traders and partnerships registered numbered 144,504 but as they only have to register if they intend to use names other than their own there is no comprehensive record of the number of unincorporated businesses started.

Kielder reservoir

Mr Giles Shaw, Under Secretary for Environment, in a written reply, said: The latest estimate prepared by the Northumbrian Water Authority indicates the total cost of the Kielder project is likely to be £150m at July 1979 prices. Of this total the reservoir works are estimated to cost £75m.

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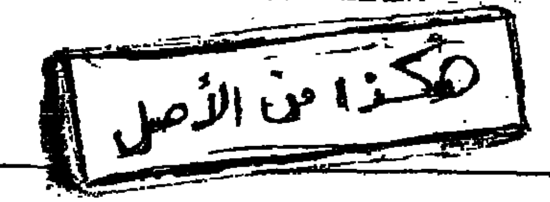
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Stifling a Technicolor yawn

Play for Today
BBC1

Michael Church

A Brush with Mr Porter on the Road to El Dorado was not half bad. It was, alas, almost wholly bad. What was it? A black comedy, *said the advance* publicity, and this was indeed true insofar as the central character concluded his career by spontaneously *exploding* outside Woolworths.

But I think the advance publicist must have seized on that word "black" after a great deal of head-scratching, as a desperate *pis aller*. Comic this play certainly aspired to be, and occasionally was, as when Nigel Hawthorne Yes Ministered his way through a nicely observed scene as a moustachioed executive.

We got some limply naturalistic comedy, Wesker with the corners of the mouth turned up, as three moderately personable young things opened a new restaurant. We got whole cartloads of slapstick, as the restaurant was invaded by grotesque guests. We leaped the boundaries of naturalism to witness an improving moral tale. We were treated to some barbed pastiche, with television commentating as its target. We were sent away with vague intimations of global satire: *capitalist greed the great corrupter.*

Must comedy have a colour? This one, based on Gargantuan eating and equally Gargantuan excreting, could for once aptly be described, with a genuflexion to Dame Edna, as a Technicolor yawn.

But the yawn resulted less from a confusion of styles than from *the fact that none of* these styles was in itself satisfactory. The personable young things were neither lovable nor *interesting*, so we could not sympathize with their desperate efforts to succeed (as we can, for example, with Mr and Mrs Fawlty). Their guests came on with red noses, squeakers, banana skins, stink bombs—all the paraphernalia of the pantomime. The gags were of the crudest sitcom variety, the whimsy began by being forced and ended up being hysterical. Considerable artistry lies behind the creation of successful comic stereotypes, finesse behind farce.

The sad thing is that we know the author can do it. Don Haworth has deservedly won prizes for his light and witty touch as a radio dramatist, and he has a sensitive ear. Was he subconsciously still writing for radio? At times the dialogue had that telltale, strained quality, as though all had to be achieved through the words. Let us hope he tries again.

Fallen idol: Thomas Carlyle

On February 4 1881, died Thomas Carlyle, whom Sir Leslie Stephen describes as "the acknowledged head of English literature" in his time. I think that that was generally agreed to be so, but it is very difficult for us to understand why today. An eminent Victorian, Sir Charles Oman, told me that we could not imagine in our time upon what pedestals the Victorians put *their great writers*. None of them has been more completely toppled than the one they thought the greatest.

We can all find reasons for not appreciating or even for actively disliking him. Personally I find his style and his perpetual moralizing intolerable. I am reminded of Wilde's reply to the literary warder in Reading Gaol about Marie Corelli: "I am not saying anything against her morals, but *to judge from her style she* ought to be here". Carlyle got his style from the Germans—in particular, Richter—and he *was on the German side (with* a famous letter to *The Times*) in the Franco-Prussian war of 1870-71. For all his fame as a *prophet, he did* not see what that portended, and his pro-Germanism is not much in favour today, etc. etc.

It is more difficult to elicit what is positive in his achievement, and far more so to account for his extraordinary influence and why people thought he was such a genius. There can be no doubt about his effect on them: one can see the traces of his style in Dickens, still more in Ruskin, and Dickens' *The Tale of Two Cities was inspired by* Carlyle's *French Revolution*, with which he first won widespread fame, his genius acknowledged.

What was characteristic of it then? First, the obvious force and vividness of his imagination; then his exceptional intuitive understanding, his rough, grim humour; he had an infallible nose for humbug of all kinds, political, philosophical, logical—and that was something in the Victorian age which was full of it.

Paradoxically—and he was full of paradoxes—for all his egoism and concern with himself he had a sharp eye for personality and character, particularly defects. His works, and especially his brilliant letters, are full of thumbnail sketches of people of the past or contemporaries, very much on target.

Two outstanding examples only. Boswell had hitherto been regarded with contempt, dismissed by Macaulay. Carlyle, *in an early essay*, saw clearly that the man who wrote the *Life of Johnson* must have been a man of *genius himself. Oliver Cromwell* had never recovered from being regarded as a scoundrel of a regicide. Carlyle understood *what* a very great man he must have been, and in *The Letters and Speeches* began his rehabilitation.

G. M. Trevelyan, who liked Carlyle much better than I do, used to tell me to remember that there were two Carlyles: the earlier one, of *Chartism*, full of sympathy for the appalling condition of the *working* classes in the Industrial Revolution, and the later Carlyle whose sympathies had given out, his "message" worn out. *His* earlier sympathy of mind illuminates his view of the Middle Ages in *Past and Present*.

This made people think of him as a Radical; he certainly was no liberal—he hated liberal illusions—and disliked both Gladstone's humbug and Disraeli's adventurism. We might say that Carlyle was the *other side of the* coin to Karl Marx.

Whence then came his originality, his difference? People have never put a precise finger upon it. He was a lower-class man—from a remarkable family of Scotch peasant-farmers—who flashed like a thunderbolt upon the scene dominated by the upper and middle classes, but *was much better educated* than they. He was well read in the whole of European literature, classical, French, Italian, *Spanish, above all German. This* last was something new, and he was the chief medium of it in Britain.

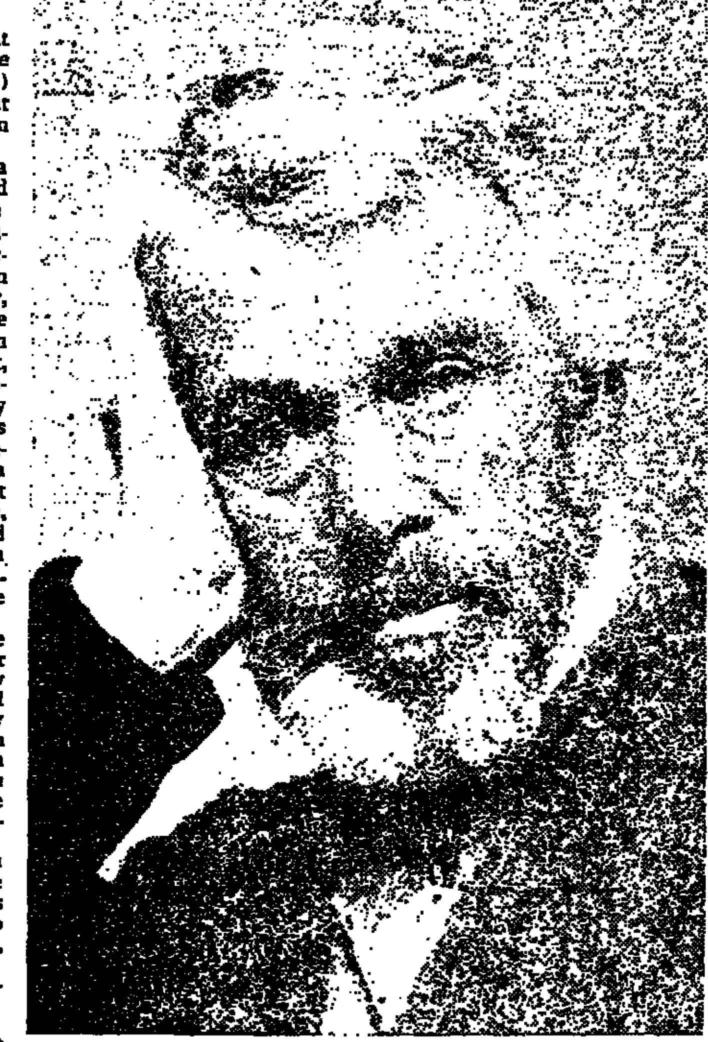
By the same token, coming from the people, he had none of the middle-class illusions about their rationality, reasonableness, perfectibility, etc, such as John Stuart Mill, and the progressives had. This in time ended his friendship with *Mill*, for Carlyle—both as man and historian—knew too well the irrationality of human conduct, the follies, obstinacy, stupidity, etc, all that I call the "Rationalist Fallacy".

And, of course, he was right about all *that, with a more* profound (also humorous) knowledge of humanity—that too wore out his sympathy in time.

I have always thought it a great mistake that he should have devoted the last decade of his working life to his immense *Life and Times of Frederick the Great*. It won Carlyle veneration in Germany, and its highest honour, the Order *pour le Merite*—when he received, and would accept, nothing from *Britain*. But Frederick of Prussia can hardly have fitted into Carlyle's mould, for he was an unbeliever, a rationalist, and a homosexual. Did Carlyle not *know* about that—of course, in the Victorian age one could not say it, but Carlyle—with his extraordinary high-mindedness—does not seem to have *known much about sex*.

This was what opened the floodgates of criticism against Froude's wonderful biography *of him when it came out* and produced the biggest literary controversy. Froude—upon whom Carlyle again had an *overwhelming influence* as an historian—thought that there were two transcendent intellects in the Victorian age: *Carlyle and Newman. If you* want to see what Carlyle looked like—besides Whistler's speaking portrait—go down to *the* Chelsea Embankment, where Boehm's statue of him was said to be the best likeness by those who knew him.

A. L. Rowse



George Coleman
Ronnie Scott's

Richard Williams

Hitherto taken for granted as one of the many capable tenor saxophonists who fell under the inescapable influence of John Coltrane during the sixties, George Coleman has lately emerged from an unusually prolonged and gradual maturation to achieve acclaim as the most completely equipped improviser of his type.

Coleman's originality resides in his application of Coltrane's technical innovations to earlier materials. He has the bebopper's relish for *harmonic* challenges, and a notable predilection for outrageously fast tempos: "Tune Up", which opened his first set on Monday night, was taken at a bruising pace, over which Coleman addressed himself to double-time runs incorporating passages of circular breathing, investigation of extremes of register, and rhythmically charged honks of varying density.

His fondness for such effects sometimes got in *the* way of his usually impeccable sense of continuity (his solo on Jobim's "Meditation", for instance, was delivered in rather distracted episodes), but his final *exploration* of a rapid boppish blues was unanswerably majestic.

In addition to the well-known virtues of his bassist, Herbie Lewis, and his drummer, Billy Higgins, Coleman's group also features the outstanding young pianist Hilton Ruiz, whose seemingly complete command of all jazz idioms is enlivened by a strong infusion of the keyboard techniques of Puerto Rican *salsa* music. Such syncopations *were particularly apt* in the bossa nova, where Higgins rose to the challenge with lightly dancing figures, and in the *blues, which found the pianist* improvising several choruses of the parallel single-note lines, a couple of octaves apart, so characteristic of *salsa*. His long cadenza on "Soul Eyes" was a brilliant combination of power and logic.

Sharing the present season is the singer Elaine Delmar, who delivered her ballads on Monday with more discretion and authority than I have ever heard from her. Brashness marred the up-tempo songs, but *to take* "*Tea for Two*" at a dead-slow tempo was a winning stroke of the imagination, and a hushed "He Was Too Good *to Me*", with accompaniment limited to Pat Smythe's sensitive piano, was simply entrancing.

Front-line report on the new generation

Naked Robots
Warehouse

Irving Wardle

Costume designers, so often unjustly ignored, are *in* no danger of being overlooked in this show. Jonathan Gems's play needs Ultz and Jean Seel's PVC miniskirts, gruyère-sided dresses, video-age jodphurs, and science fiction cloaks as much as it needs the actors to go inside them like Cadillacs on legs.

Without her pink body-stocking with its two huge conical breasts (on which a friend painfully impales herself) there would not be much point to Trudie Styler's opening number: just a pretty girl singing a gentle song. But as it comes from a figure trussed up in that erotically dehumanized rig-out, you wonder what is going on.

There are two ways of answering that. In fact, Desna (Miss Styler) is a middle-class girl, living in a squat which she shares with Nudy, a fashion designer from Mombasa. But as *she sees the situation, she* is a pop singer biding her time until she gets her next group together. The play is entirely *peopled with young, marginal* lives; a fact that is continuously asserted by the contrast between the absurd luxury of their costume *and the squalor of their* living conditions.

Every few years another young playwright comes up with a front-line report on how the new generation are passing the time; affording his balding spectators the smug pleasure of sitting back and reflecting that nothing has changed. There they go, finding out about sex and putting on the style. The difference in the case of this piece is the extreme gap between style and *reality*.

Living on the fringes of the art and criminal worlds, these kids inhabit a society where you need to collect £40,000 before it makes sense to have a child; and where the only hope of squaring satisfaction with survival is to make an instant killing in the fashion market.

What the play does is to present four characters who may be on the way up, and one (*a woman pop group manager*) who is definitely on the way down, to examine which of them has the staying power to *live by style alone. The* prevailing emotion is one of psychological vertigo. Lies are told to frantic parents over the *telephone. Jobs are invented.* Chances of big money melt away on the casting couch or with a blow over the head. Also the characters are compulsively watching each other's progressing, envying each other's supposed talents or strength of personality.

Gemma (Catherine Hall), A-level truant in stark white make-up, holes up in the flat, oozing adoring envy of the beautiful people, while trying to extract her Post Office savings book *from her detested parents* ("Don't bring it round, Mother, you're ugly.") Poppy (Lynda Marchal) holds on to them, playing the big-time agents with barely concealed panic. Ray (Phillip Davis), the only one with no pretensions to style, hangs around the flat out of hopeless lust for Desna.

As the play develops, it becomes clear that only Nudy, the designer bred in African poverty, has any chance of making it. The play satirizes his cold-blooded treatment of the women and his intoxication with ludicrous costume: "People live in the past, they're scared of change; but as soon as you get them wearing *stuff*, they change." But from first to last, he never stops working.

As for Desna, the ever-hospitable queen bee, her kindness periodically giving way to appalling fits of jealous rage, it becomes clear that she is a straight middle-class girl who will never be happy until she has a semi-detached in Bromley and a growing family.

The piece is long-winded and *put together on the* "*and then*" principle.

In John Caird's production it also convinces you that Mr Gems knows his territory intimately, and can put it into expert comic perspective: as where Gemma comes to the aid of the apparently dying Poppy, and walks her around the room talking obsessively about her own problems. As for parental rebellion, it is interesting that Mr Gems endorses the main message of his mother, Pam Gems's, plays; that if you turn your back on your biology, it will get you in the end.

Brave modernity

YMSO CO/Blair
Queen Elizabeth Hall

Max Harrison

The YMSO Chamber Orchestra offered a brave programme, mainly of twentieth-century works in which Stravinsky's *Pulcinella Suite* was the only familiar item. This group, rather large to be called a *chamber orchestra, is a recent* offshoot of the Young Musicians' Symphony Orchestra, and the performances are similar in *character, doubtless because* the conductor, James Blair, is the same. The "Serenata" was touching in its sad grace and the quick movements were sprucely done, although latterly the brass were not altogether immaculate.

Stravinsky's extensive re-writing of the Pergolesi originals not withstanding, *Pulcinella* now seems a mild work, despite the pranks of trombone and double basses at one point. Not so Hindemith's Kammermusik No 7 Op 46 No 2, in which the solo organ is accompanied by two each of cellos and double basses plus a small assortment of brass and woodwind. In the first movement at *least, the soloist, Timothy Bond*, showed bright registrations that contrasted effectively with the orchestra. Indeed, the music's combination of *pawky humour* and solid craftsmanship was odd yet engaging, so that the strange instrumentation proved to be well judged after all.

Shostakovich's music for Kozintsev's 1964 film version of *Hamlet* is relatively familiar, but it is less well known that this was his second treatment of the subject. In 1932, between *the composition of his Third* and Fourth symphonies, he wrote 13 pieces for a production at the Bachtangov Theatre *in Moscow, and only last night* were they heard for the first time in this country.

To generalize, one is tempted to say that Shostakovich's music here is very Russian instead of in any specific way Shakespearian (in the Berlioz sense, for example). Virtually all the movements are attractive in their invention and vitality, however, and the performance was clear and suitably energetic.

Guadagnini Quartet
Wigmore Hall

Joan Chissell

Ever since 1959, with help in recent years from private sponsors, the Incorporated Society of Musicians has come to the rescue of talented youth in need of a launching platform. Monday night's final recital of *the present series*, financially underwritten by that generous RCM benefactor, Peter Morrison, was shared by a string *quartet and a solo pianist* both trained at the RCM.

The pianist, Peter Bradley, impressed first and foremost *with the strength and breadth* of his style. The Chopin he presented in the G minor Ballade was no wan consumptive, but a bard as *muscular* as ardent. At times, in fact, a little more delicacy of sonority would have been welcome. And, just as in the second subject melody we could have done without reminders of the old-time custom of seeking extra expression by separating the hands, so in the fiery coda, begun with terrific panache, it seemed slightly cheating to lessen hazards by means of rubato.

In Book II of Brahms's Paganini Variations Mr Bradley was frequently too elastic for this rock-like composer, now and again lessening the work's brilliance by leisurely choice of tempo (though not in the dare-devil No 11). Yet here again the spaciousness of his conception, and the weight and warmth of tone he could command in support, were quite exceptional. So was his crystalline *brilliance* and rhythmic incisiveness in Falla's "Andaluza", with a winning touch of nostalgia at the end.

The Guadagnini String Quartet, now almost five years old, made their bid in only one work, Bartok's Second Quartet. As the recital was short, it was a pity they did not include some brief classical test too. But their full-bodied sonority, and still more, the warmth and intensity of their commitment, were valuable assets throughout *Bartok's cri de coeur*.

Perhaps some of the first movement texture could have been more ethereal. Certainly the central Allegro molto needed a still more pungent spitfire brilliance. But the fluid tempo change of the outer movements, no less than the middle movement's caprice, always found them as one in *ensemble*. In sum, a worthwhile evening.

Misfortune dogs first night of singularly unlucky revival

Un ballo in maschera
Covent Garden

William Mann

This revival of Otto Schenk's production, the first for four years, has been plagued with misfortune. When the series of performances began last Thursday, Luciano Pavarotti was on compassionate leave at home in Italy; the Anckarstroem, Renato Bruson, himself laid low *with a virus infection*, had to ask for a substitute as well, though he intends to sing from tomorrow onwards. By Monday, when my colleagues and I were invited to review the revival, Pavarotti had arrived, we were able to greet Matteo Manuguerra, on his debut in the Royal Opera House (his sterling *baritone is* already familiar from records), and there too, were Montserrat Caballé as Amelia and Bernard Haitink as conductor.

The misfortunes were not yet ended. The first two scenes went well, Pavarotti slimmer, indeed well proportioned, honeyed of vocal line and constantly attentive to the meaning of *words* (though I wish he would not break double consonants with an intrusive vowel), his lightsome, exuberant *delivery of his music* apt to the frivolous nature of King Gustavus. His solution for the laughter ensemble, "E scherzo *od' è follia*", *was ideal, laughter* in the voice but not added verbally to the music (as some, including Caruso, have done). *Yvonne Kenny's Oscar* contributed strongly to that ensemble, and her tall, strutting, effervescent pageboy looked delightful, *though the voice does not* really sparkle as her arias deserve, and as "Di che fulgor" in the library scene *requires*.

There were two boisterous, nicely rhythmical conspirators in Roderick Earle and Paul Hudson, a telling gypsy prophetess by Patricia Payne, a lustrous glimpse of Caballé's Amelia, her long first phrase spun out smoothly and softly in a ravishing arch of tone. Manuguerra's Anckarstroem *looked* and sounded dependable, healthy, and rather dull—later he rose superbly to the library scene and a grandly, passionately voiced "Eri tu".

When the scene beneath the gallows began, it was clear that Caballé was in vocal difficulties, snatching extra breath, hardening her tone, uneasy in the upper register. Somehow the rapt climax of the love duet, spaciously negotiated by Haitink (by now an appreciative, dynamic Verdi interpreter), yielded its magic. But after a tense account of the ensuing trio Amelia walked off behind the King, when she should remain veiled on stage.

Manuguerra told us, in English, that Mme Caballé was unwell; Sir John Tooley came before the closed curtains to convey her apologies and her determination to complete the performance as soon as possible. After some *minutes* the *scene* was resumed, the soprano nursing her voice whenever possible, never emitting an ugly sound, *melting hearts* at the end of "Morro, ma prima", but inevitably offering part only of the interpretation expected, *though aspiring singers* were given an invaluable bonus lesson in vocal survival under duress.

Caballé's bravery deserved all the grateful applause accorded by the audience, though her colleagues, Pavarotti in particular, sounded less than comfortable in the succeeding scenes, and we in the audience also remained on edge. I have never cared for this production, its dingy settings least of all. This cast bade fair to compensate for the visual drabness, and with luck will do so when its members are all restored to health.



Montserrat Caballé and Luciano Pavarotti

Here's a Funny Thing
Lyric Studio,
Hammersmith

Ned Chaillet

It might as well be Max Miller standing up there at the Lyric Studio in Hammersmith. Those are his words, his songs, his routines, and since I never saw him before his death in 1963, I shall trust that John Bardon is giving a performance with more than a modicum of truth in his impersonation.

R. W. Shakespeare, whose name more often appears in *The Times* above news stories from the north, is after a bit more than impersonation in his script *Here's a Funny Thing*. There is no effort to delve anywhere beneath the surface of Miller, but the first act of the entertainment is a diverting rehearsal with Mr Bardon's Miller given over to autobiographical reminiscence.

Rehearsal is cleverly intact as a performance by itself, with stories about Miller's upbringing and career enlivened with anecdotes about the real people and places in his life, with the uncensored version of the joke that had him banned from the BBC for five years. Zena Cooper's presence at the piano, zestful and responsive, gives Mr Bardon a focus that makes his stories seem spontaneous, something more than another man's memories.

Those around me that might know found Mr Bardon exact in his imitation when the second act moved to a 1952 Palladium performance. I can only praise Mr Bardon for being so funny that I trusted his own *music-hall skills*. His dancing is not much, and his singing is less, but the entire act works, with much of it hanging on the success of an obscene *wink* and its careful direction to women in the audience.

Bedecked in outrageous and colourful flowered costumes, his face as grotesquely made up as something from *Cabaret*, Mr *Bardon's* presentation is so happily rude and Mr Shakespeare's selection of material is so spontaneously right that it makes for a *lively* trip back in comic time.

The production is by William Gaunt, who originally staged it at the Liverpool Playhouse.

London debuts

Far as it is from Brazil to Wigmore *Hall*, the Municipal String Quartet of Sao Paulo, founded 35 years ago but reformed in 1979, can rest assured that their journey was well worth while. Deriving particularly valuable warmth from the burnished foundation tone of viola and cello, they excelled, both in lyrical nostalgia and keenly balanced textures, in the first quartet of their compatriot, Villa-Lobos, if not a profoundly intellectual work, then at least an uncommonly beguiling one. Schubert's youthful E flat quartet, Op 125, No 1, found them adroit *in melodic repartee*, even if violin tone sounded a little sun-starved when exposed in the upper register. In Brahms's A minor quartet, Op 51, No 2, at the end of the programme, there was a tonal *homogeneity* to match closeness of ensemble in every other respect. The two middle movements were particularly winning in finesse *without loss* of Brahmsian sense of direction, while in the Hungarian-type finale they really let the resin fly.

Alan Gravill did not keep us waiting long to discover why his audience was larger than often encountered at debut recitals. This young RAM-trained British pianist has an inquiring mind and lively imagination as well as a keen ear to uphold very serviceable fingers. After a sensitive but stylishly unromanticized account *of Mozart's A minor* Rondo, he was uncommonly successful in integrating mystery, might and melody in the first movement of Beethoven's "Appassionata", even if its finale, because questionably fast, seemed to lack a measure of internal tension. Untoward speeding once or twice took its toll in an improvisational reading of Chopin's G minor Ballade. But in Debussy's *Images* (Book 1), two extracts from Bartok's "Out of Doors" and most of all in Messiaen's "Canteyodjayâ" his controlled agility, range of colour and *sustained intensity* in atmospheric evocation were quite outstanding.

Introducing herself in the Kirckman series, the soprano, Helen Roy, *immediately* thawed her listeners with sensuously beautiful tone, and the ability to project it at considerable *strength without the* least trace of edginess. Her soaring response to the drama of "Tränen" in her Medtner group as also to climaxes in contexts as unlike as Wolf, Duparc, Strauss, Seiber and Falla *helped to* explain why opera has claimed most of her time to date. Surprisingly, it was only at more confidential moments that phrasing and even pitch once or twice faltered, as if because of unreliable breath control. There was warm feeling behind every note, though in the intimate world of Lieder she could still *intensify characterization* by more potent savouring of words. Her commanding pianist, Gordon Fergus-Thompson, now and again overpowered her less strong lower register, but mellowed considerably as the evening progressed.

Joan Chissell

Donald Sinden in Coward play

Donald Sinden will play Garry Essendine in Coward's *Present Laughter*, which opens at the Greenwich Theatre on January 29. *Others in the cast* will be Dinah Sheridan and Gwen Watford.

Two Beethoven rarities

BBC SO/Loughran
Festival Hall/Radio 3

Stanley Sadie

Beethoven's Choral Fantasia is one of the puzzles of music. Circumstances—the urgent need for a showy piece to round off a long concert—decreed that it evaded his usual processes of slow gestation, with piecemeal sketching and careful and critical working out; all the same, the miscalculations are too gross to be *so simply* explained. The huge, undistinguished piano solo at the beginning, with *orchestra* and *chorus* sitting waiting, at once establishes an out-of-joint relationship of *means and ends*; *and the banality* of some of the early variations is of an order that the greatest master of variation form had long left behind him.

But the Choral Fantasia embodies *more than itself*: lurking behind it is a series of ideas, some from the past (ghosts of passages from the fourth and fifth piano concertos) and, more important, some from the future. Its links with the Choral Symphony are well known; here we see Beethoven scenting new, grand ideas but lacking the time, the occasion, the judgment, even the equipment to penetrate their implications. We hear him, for example, use that modulation which, as A to F, takes us thrillingly from one world to another in the Choral; here, he uses it too, twice over in fact, but only for momentary dramatic effect.

It is good to hear the piece and to have a chance to think about the insights *it offers* into Beethoven's creative mechanisms. On Monday it opened the BBC European Broadcasting *Union* concert. *Edith* Vogel played Beethoven's part, with a good deal of poetic force in the *opening solo*; *later on, simply* because of the odds stacked against the pianist, any interpreter is bound to emphasize weight more than subtlety.

There was more rare Beethoven, the cantata he wrote at 19 to mourn the death of Joseph II. Perhaps his anti-aristocratic tendencies had yet to take shape; he wears here with conviction the garb of the old-fashioned court composer, and in distinctly new-fashioned music, music unmistakably a generation ahead of *Die Zauberflöte*, of Haydn's London symphonies (still to be written) *and which he recalled when* celebrating the reunion of Léonore and Florestan. Not much else is of that quality, but plenty is sombre and striking. James Loughran conducted this music, with due spirit in the one *work, intensity in the other*; the BBC Singers acquitted themselves efficiently; and the bass solos were strongly, resonantly done *by Stafford Dean*, the soprano ones with visionary beauty by Felicity Lott.

SPORT

Motor racing

Breakthrough in dispute heralds peace between FISA and FOCA

By John Blunsden

There is real hope that an end is in sight to the prolonged dispute between the international motor sport federation (FISA) and the formula one constructors' association (FOCA) over the control of motor racing at grand prix level. The breakthrough came after a 12-hour meeting of constructors at Ferrari headquarters in Modena, Italy, on Monday, which was attended by representatives of most of the leading teams.

A statement from Enzo Ferrari confirmed that agreement in principle had been reached by the constructors on a set of technical regulations which will be refined by a small committee during the next few days and then submitted to FISA for ratification.

Although no details were announced, I understand that the agreement is conditional on stability of regulations for the next four years, that the regulations will be under the jurisdiction of a properly representative and workable formula one commission, and that the world championship will be operated on the basis of FISA retaining control of technical and administrative rules but not of commercial affairs.

FISA's reaction to the document will have an important influence on the South African grand prix, which was thought to be going ahead on February 7 as a free formula event outside the championship but could now be brought back within the championship and run to the regulations to be put forward to FISA for approval.

If this is the case, only one formula one race will be held outside the championship in 1981, this being a new San Marino grand prix named after the tiny principality close to Rimini and run on the Imola circuit on May 3. Proceeds of this event will go to the victims of the recent Italian earthquake.

On his return to London the FOCA president, Bernard Ecclestone, revealed only cautious optimism when I spoke to him yesterday: "The most important thing, I think, is that we established that there is no conflict between different constructors, only perhaps a variation in our respective assessment of FISA. Also, for the first time during this difficult period, we have shown ourselves to be genuinely united in our desire to find an acceptable solution based on sensible regulations without [illegible] pressure from outside. Now that we have shown that we are agreed on how formula one and the world championship should be operated, we shall have to await FISA's reaction. By their response we shall know whether they have been motivated by a real desire to improve safety standards in grand prix racing or whether they have only been interested in power."

That dispute has dragged on for so long, causing both sponsors and key suppliers like Goodyear to abandon grand prix racing, is due in considerable measure to the fact that the constructors and teams have gravitated towards one or other of the two camps, Ferrari, Alfa Romeo, Renault, Talbot, Ligier and the new Toleman team taking the FISA side and the rest of the teams—mostly British-based—backing FOCA.

Now that there is unity between them all, the FISA president, Jean-Marie Balestre, must be under considerable pressure to ensure that the proposals are ratified with the minimum of delay. Whether or not the technical proposals include a ban on the controversial skirts, as insisted upon by FISA, remains to be seen; but, either way, to have obtained unanimous acceptance by the teams, the proposed rules will almost certainly have included safeguards to prevent the achievement of excessive cornering speeds and inadequately short braking distances—issues central to the dispute—by other more complicated and more expensive means. Precise details of the proposals can be expected within the next few days after lawyers have scrutinized the small print and, it is to be hoped, plugged all the loopholes.

Boxing

Leonard in the middle of welter of offers

By Srikumar Sen
Boxing Correspondent

Anybody who is anybody, in boxing that is, wants to meet Sugar Ray Leonard, the WBC welterweight champion. At the last count there were three: Maurice Hope, Britain's WBC light-middleweight champion; Uganda's Ayub Kalule, the WBA champion who lives in Denmark; and last but not least, Marvin Hagler, the undisputed world middleweight champion, who humiliated Alan Minter, of Britain, and then stopped the hard-hitting Fulgencio Obelmejias, of Venezuela.

It seems that Kalule has secured the bout and it will be somewhere in the United States. Wherever it is in that country it should rake in the dollars as Kalule is the most elegant of boxers though not the hardest of hitters. Taking first things first, if Leonard wins he will have to decide within eight days which crown to keep: under the rules he cannot wear both even if it were physically possible. Then, perhaps, it will be Hope's turn.

The irony of this turn of events, that cuts Hope out of the big money, is that Kalule's manager, Mogens Palle, a Dane, had made a public offer to Hope last year through an advertisement in Boxing News to meet his man for the undisputed world title (which everybody who is anybody in boxing administration would like to see more than anything else) for £100,000, not a measly sum. There the offer lay and no one picked it up. I do not know if it is still open, though I dare say Mr Palle may make it again if Kalule beats Leonard.

If Kalule does not win Hope could reopen negotiations with Mike Trainer, Leonard's lawyer, and pray that money does not get in the way again: it is rumoured that Leonard may take on an even bigger task, Hagler. In such a case Hope could do worse than put his title up against Kalule. It would be a great bout between two evenly matched men. Victory over a high class boxer like the Ugandan would certainly keep Hope on the money trail.

Kalule's bout with Leonard may be a blessing in disguise for Hope. He will now be able to see how Leonard handles himself against a light-middle weight and then assess whether he would want to risk his title against Leonard. In the meanwhile, Mickey Duff, the matchmaker who went to the United States to finalize the deal with Leonard but came away empty handed, has got ideas on future opponents for Hope. There is Roberto Duran, who retired in disgrace against Leonard, but wants to show willing again. Mr Duff is not thinking of signing him for the Panamanian's rehabilitation, to be sure. Or there is Pipino Cuevas, the WBC No 2 and a former WBA champion.

Hagler, in the meantime, will be taking out his frustration on challengers for his title. "They are standing in line," Goody Petronelli, his manager, said yesterday.

Minter is at the back of the queue somewhere. First there is Chongpal Park, of South Korea, the No 3, or Hagler's old friend, Vito Antuofermo. "Vito is the second most attractive bout after Leonard," Steve Wainwright, Hagler's lawyer, says. I cannot imagine why anyone would want to see Antuofermo in action after his dismal performance against Minter. However, Ruben Pardo, of Argentina, and two ranked boxers, the Syrian-born Mustapha Hamsho and Dwight Davison are ahead of Minter.

Doug Bidwell, Minter's manager, had Sunday lunch with the Petronelli's in Boston but did not get anywhere. Mr Wainwright said: "A Minter fight is a possibility. When you are on top, everything is possible, but Marvin really wants Sugar Ray Leonard."

All this activity round the welterweights and middleweights cannot knock out the heavyweights. Muhammad Ali, or at least his promoter, Harold Smith, has arrived in San Juan, Puerto Rico, where they will be applying for a licence. So sanguine is Mr Smith that the licence will be given that he has named a date and place for the John L. Gardner meeting—the Hiram Bithorn Stadium on April 18.

Rugby Union



Photograph by Bill Warhurst

Successful operation: the Guy's Hospital pack wins the ball from a ruck to set up a pass for Duckworth, the scrum half.

Lightning strikes twice in gloom

By Gordon Allan

Guy's 3 St Thomas's 3

Guy's scored a penalty goal and St Thomas's a dropped goal in their Hospitals Cup first round match at Chislehurst yesterday. The replay date has still to be decided. The winners are due to play The London Hospital at Cobham on January 29.

Until the last 10 minutes neither team looked remotely like scoring except through penalties, and they missed all those, usually with room to spare. Then St. Thomas's, to their credit, won the ball against the head at a scrummage in Guy's 22 and Murphy dropped a goal

That was that, we thought. Nobody is going to score again in a match like this. Lightning is not supposed to strike twice in the same place. But it did here, after a fashion. The celebrations for St. Thomas's dropped goal were still subsiding when, a minute later, they were penalised in the loose in their 22 and Bundy, from an angle which had defeated all previous kickers, landed the goal. A replay. Groans all round.

There was a little more excitement to come, though it was small enough compensation for the barrenness of nearly everything that had gone before. Somehow or other, St Thomas's managed to set Newington free on the left wing in the last minute, and for one frantic moment it seemed that he might run round Guy's defence. Robson was up in support on the inside, but they were too near touch for their own good, and Guy's hacked the ball out of danger.

Between them, the two sides missed 10 penalties. Half of them were of the kind labelled eminently kickable. The tone was set straight from the kick-off, when Guy's conceded a penalty in front of their posts and Murphy was unable to kick it. So it went on. Hackett could have won the match for Guy's off his own boot. He missed five times. Guy's should have won anyway, because their forwards were marginally stronger and their backs occasionally tried to do more with the ball than thump it down field. However the players enjoyed the game, and that is the main thing.

GUY'S HOSPITAL: P. Reynolds; [illegible] Williams, R. Moore, N. Slater, [illegible] Hackell; M. Bundy, S. Duckworth, [illegible] Parry, E. Rose, S. Kennedy, J. Bean, S. Challacombe, D. Lloyd, J. Bran[illegible], M. Lower.

ST THOMAS'S HOSPITAL: [illegible] Robson; I. Nugent, P. Saunders, [illegible] Macdonagh, D. Newington; P. Murphy, D. Richardson; A. Scott, N. Smith, [illegible] Barry, J. Braiden, J. Gibbs, [illegible] Chinnas, M. Bushnell, A. Moody.

Referee: A. Evans (London).

Cricket

Yardley's recall may show selectors' line of thinking

From Dilip Rao
Sydney, Jan 20

Although it is a fast bowler, Len Pascoe, whose fitness is in doubt, Australia's selectors have called up a spinner, Bruce Yardley, in making their only change in the 12 for the second Test match against India, starting at Adelaide Oval on Friday.

Pascoe, who was ruled out of tomorrow's one-day international against New Zealand at Sydney Cricket Ground, will be given a fitness test on the morning of the Test match. Pascoe, aged 30, has bowled on wobbly knees throughout the current season and is due to have them operated on in the Australian autumn. He is resigned to missing Australia's tour of Engand later this year.

Yardley, who played 14 Test matches over the four series in which Australia were engaged during the Packer era, replaces Graf, the Victorian all-rounder, who came to Hampshire's aid last summer while Marshall was touring with the West Indians. He was twelfth man in all three Test matches against New Zealand and the first against India. The selection of Yardley, a 33-year-old all-rounder, is a hint that Mallett no longer commands the selectors' esteem and that Yardley could be making his first tour of England as one of two spinners.

Although Yardley had just had a successful tour of India, Western Australia played him in only two Sheffield Shield games last season. However, he has been a regular this season and pressed his claims by taking 11 wickets against Tasmania in their last match to raise his tally for the season to 29. As Yardley delivers from a considerable height, his offbreaks tend to lift; but, like most Australian spinners, he does not readily bowl from round the wicket.

The recent round of Sheffield Shield matches, during which Yardley so effectively advanced his cause, was one of experiment, in that all three matches were played over three days of seven hours and 30 minutes instead of the traditional four six-hour days. The trial was preparatory to the Australian board considering a proposal to play all Sheffield Shield matches from next season over three longer days. Saving of money is one factor in seeking a break with tradition and the other is that Test match players would be available for more games than they were this season.

Greg Chappell's team, Queensland, got the better of South Australia, but he has spoken out against the three-day match becoming regular practice. He feels that a seven-and-a-half hour day is too taxing in a hot country and objects also on the grounds that a match would be ruined if the weather interfered for long on one of the days.

Only one of the three experimental matches was left unfinished. It was one at the SCG between the leaders, New South Wales, and Victoria, which New South Wales played rather unenterprisingly. The feature of a dreary last day, in fact, was a verbal attack by the hot-headed Pascoe on the Victorian captain, Richie Robinson.

AUSTRALIA (from): G. M. Wood, A. R. Border, G. S. Chappell (captain), K. J. Hughes, K. D. Walters, J. Dyson, B. Yardley, R. W. Marsh, D. K. Lillee, R. M. Hogg, J. D. Higgs, L. S. Pascoe.

Record-breaker on trial

Hampshire are to give a trial to Robin Smith, the 17-year-old brother of their South African batsman, Chris. The younger Smith has broken all Natal schoolboy batting records set by Barry Richards, another South African to play for Hampshire.

Gavaskar finds his touch as Indians win

Portland, Jan 20.—Sunil Gavaskar, the Indian captain, made a timely return to form in a one-day limited-overs match against a Victoria Country XI today, hitting 58 to help his side to a 64-run victory. The touring team scored 232 for seven in their quota of 49 overs and dismissed the local team for 168.

Gavaskar's tour form has been erratic, but his performance here was a useful boost before the second Test against Australia, which starts in Adelaide on Friday. He retired soon after reaching his half century to give the middle-order batsmen match practice

When the local team batted, Yagraj Singh made the early breakthrough and took three for 32. Shivlal Yadav, the off spinner, took two for 62

INDIANS

*S. M. Gavaskar, retired	58
C. P. S. Chauhan, c Howland, b Davis	18
T. E. Srinivasan, run out	61
Y. Sharma, b Davis	10
K. Azad, b Scott	4
S. M. Patil, c Hopper, b Homden	62
R. Binny, c Davis, b Brewster	11
Y. Singh, not out	0
†B. Reddy, not out	0
Extras (b 3, l-b 4, n-b 1)	8
Total (7 wkts, 49 overs)	232

S. Yadav and D. R. Doshi did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1—34, 2—123, 3—149, 4—156, 5—172, 6—228, 7—232.

BOWLING: Davis 18—1—75—2; Scott, 9—0—35—1; Homden, 13—2—45—1; Brewster, 1—0—4—1; Button, 6—0—30—0; Howland, 2—0—15—0.

VICTORIA COUNTRY XI

P. Brady, b Singh	15
K. Saunders, run out	6
R. Button, b Singh	15
D. Fritsch, b Yadav	27
B. Hopper, l-b-w, b Singh	0
*A. Brewster, st Reddy, b Doshi	41
R. Scott, c Sharma, b Doshi	14
T. Howland, c Patil, b Doshi	3
P. Sudholz, c and b Yadav	7
R. Davis, st Reddy, b Doshi	6
P. Homden, not out	22
Extras (b 6, l-b 5, nb 1)	12
Total (49 overs)	168

FALL OF WICKETS: 1—18, 2—37, 3—38, 4—38, 5—90, 6—109, 7—114, 8—128, 9—139, 10—168.

BOWLING: Singh, 9—2—32—3; Binny, 6—0—17—0; Patil, 2—1—4—0; Yadav, 19—3—62—2; Azad, 1—1—0—0; Doshi, 12—5—41—4.

McLeod blow to Scotland

Ian McLeod, the 22-year-old Scottish amateur featherweight champion, has pulled out of the annual clash against England, taking place at Renfrew today, to turn professional.

McLeod, Scotland's captain and three times their champion, was the back-bone of their team and his decision does little to boost the morale of a team seeking their first victory in 14 outings. McLeod is replaced by a Glasgow youngster Dave Savage, who makes his first appearance for the senior team.

It is now six years since Scotland last beat England 7—4 at Meadowbank, but the international squad's new coach, Bobby Neil, believes the Scots can turn the corner today. A new sponsorship deal has allowed Neil, a London-based Scot with several professional boxers in his stable, to take his side away for four days to concentrate on their preparations.

England have lost the services of the experienced Ray Gilbody and Gary Felvus through illness and injury and Bob Jones and Leonard Ashton come in

Skiing

Too much snow delays women's slalom

A women's world cup slalom event was postponed until today in Crans Montana, Switzerland, after 28in of snow fell in the night. The organizers called in 200 volunteers to help to clear the course.

Bad weather ruled out a downhill event at the same resort on Sunday which has now been rearranged for Megève, in France, on January 29.

The world ski jumping cup enters its Swiss stage at St Moritz today with three men dominating the event. Armin Kogler, of Austria, leads with 98 points, one ahead of his compatriot and the former leader, Hubert Neuper, with Roger Ruud, of Norway, a further 10 points behind.

Kogler, who was fifth in the 90 metres event at the winter Olympics, passed Neuper, the silver medal winner, thanks to a better performance in the last two jumps in Czechoslovakia. Ruud won both these jumps to leap up the overall standings and it was in Switzerland last season that he produced his best form, winning at St Moritz, finishing second at Gstaad and fourth at Engelberg.

The St Moritz jump will be followed by Gstaad on Friday and Engelberg on Sunday, after which the cup goes into hibernation for three weeks. Two jumps were to have been held in Zakopane, Poland, on January 17 and 18 but were cancelled for financial reasons.

Tennis

Coach is given a lesson by her pupil

Cincinnati, Jan 20.—Hana Mandlikova, of Czechoslovakia, defeated her coach, Betty Stove, of the Netherlands, 6—1, 6—4 in the first round of a $150,000 tournament last night. Miss Mandlikova, seeded second in this tournament and ranked fourth in the world, took only 63 minutes to defeat the unseeded Miss Stove, who has been the 19-year-old's full-time coach since June.

Two upsets highlighted the first day's play as Anne Smith ousted her fifth-seeded fellow American, Kathy Jordan, 6—4, 7—5, and Roz Fairbank of the United States beat the eighth-seeded Mima Jausovec, of Yugoslavia, 7—5, 3—6, 6—3.

FIRST ROUND: H. Mandlikova (Czechoslovakia) beat B. Stove (Netherlands) 6—1, 6—4; A. Smith (US) beat K. Jordan (US) 6—4, 7—5; R. Fairbank (US) beat M. Jausovec (Yugoslavia) 7—5, 3—6, 6—3; S. Hanika (W Germany) beat T. Holladay 6—1, 6—0; M. L. Piatek beat Y. Vermaak (S Africa) 6—1, 6—3.—Reuter.

Kuala Lumpur, Jan 20.—Five times Wimbledon champion, Bjorn Borg, of Sweden, and Vitas Gerulaitus, of United States, will be pitted against each other in the 555 international classic at the Stadium Negara here on February 28.

A spokesman for the sponsors said today that the two stars would not be playing for any prize money but would only vie for the coveted challenge trophy which he said will be an annual affair. The classic is being organized in conjunction with the International Management Group.

Navy are outgunned five to one Bristol fashion

By Alan Gibson

Bristol 26 Royal Navy 6

It did not rain during the match but the pitch was soggy and from the first moments the predominant sound was the slap of boots on mud. These conditions did not favour the Navy, whose hopes this season rest principally upon some lively backs. Bristol were not at full strength but nevertheless had ample command in all departments in front, and were able to give their backs about five chances to the Navy's one. The Navy hardly ever heeled except on the retreat, and though it was much to their credit, and the crowd's pleasure, that they kept running the ball, they never looked as if they might win the match.

Bristol took an early lead with a penalty by Gorvett and were 22 points up at half time. Both wings, Lane and Carter, scored tries, Gorvett converting both. He kicked another penalty and then scored a try himself. At least it was a pushover try by the forwards but we acknowledged the gospel of the present President of the RFU: "If in doubt always award it to the number eight". John Kendall-Carpenter has scored a few dozen tries by this method, equally agreeable to number eights and reporters.

In the second half Bristol went further ahead with a try by Wright and it looked as if the match might become slightly embarrassing: but the Navy, obviously a fit team, were not discouraged. It was not that Bristol relaxed—every Bristol player is concerned with his place in the team, whatever the score. Penfold kicked two penalty goals for the Navy, who were unlucky not to score a try in a rousing last 10 minutes, when they twice went very close.

They were certainly looking the stronger side by the end. The trouble was—I am sorry to return to the analogy again but I cannot resist it—the trouble was that like Jellicoe at Jutland, they started a little late, and found the foe out of their reach.

BRISTOL: G. Kouraris, J. Lane, J. Kells, A. Thomas, R. Carter, N. Wright, D. Morgan, J. Doubleday, I. Tasker, A. Sheppard, N. Gasmond, A. Troughton, M. Barker, S. Gorvett, M. Rafter (captain).

ROYAL NAVY: Mne H. Bartlett (40 Commando); Lt J. Harker (HMS Collingwood), Lt J. Blackett (MOD-DNR), Lt J. Patrick (BRNC Dartmouth), LPTI R. Penfold (HMS Raleagh), PO P. Tomlin (RNAS Culdrose), CPO C. Youlden (HMS Sovereign), PO W. Davies (HMS Drake), AB R. Joy (HMS Conqueror), LMEM A. Dryborough (HMS Falcon), LMEM J. King (HMS Drake), CPO A. Payne (RNH Hasler), Cpl S. Woods (CTC, RM), Lt S. Hughes (Royal Marines, Deal), PO R. Thompson (HMS Raleagh).

Referee: Mr J. Roberts (Gloucester).

McMillan is now the centre of discussion

Alan McMillan looks set to leave Gosforth after being left out of their side for their third round John Player Cup tie at home to Fylde on Saturday. He has told the club that he wants to be considered only in the centre.

McMillan, who toured with England in the Far East in May last year, was also omitted from the side to play Richmond in a match cancelled by bad weather last Saturday. "In the past I swallowed my pride and played on the wing because that's where the club have asked me to play," he said.

"But on Saturday when Richard Breakey wasn't playing, I thought I'd get a game in the centre, but they brought in another lad and I must admit I was a bit fed up. I don't enjoy playing on the wing.

"What the next step will be I really don't know but I may be emigrating to Canada later this year. Whether I stay with Gosforth or move to some other club in the meantime, I haven't made up my mind yet." McMillan could still be in the Gosforth side against Fylde because David Johnson is receiving treatment for a hamstring injury and does not expect to be fit.

Leicester, the holders, have done their best to make sure the tie at Roundhay does not fall victim to the weather. Leicester, who have all their current England internationals available and are able to field the strongest side since they met the Barbarians, have lent the Yorkshire club their plastic tarpaulin to protect the pitch.

Cambridge captain

Huw Davies (King Edward VI, Stourbridge and Selwyn), the replacement stand-off for England at Cardiff last Saturday, is the new captain of Cambridge University; he beat Marcus Rose, another England replacement, by just one vote. The new secretary will be Toby Allchurch (Abbey HS, Redditch, and Downing).

Smallwood given the vote

Giles Smallwood, of Northern, is chosen at No 8 in place of the injured Roger Uttley for Northumberland against Gloucestershire in the county championship final at Kingsholm on January 31.

Smallwood stood in for Uttley in the semi-final round match against Surrey, but there had been hints that the Morpeth farmer, I. Pringle, could come into the back row for the final.

Pringle is selected among the replacements, and the only other change in the side from the semi-final is the return of the captain, S. Gustard, on the wing after recovering from a leg injury.

TEAM: B. Patrick (Gosforth); J. Pollock (Northern), R. Breakey (Gosforth), A. Tindle (Northern), J. S. Gustard (Capt) (Gosforth); D. Johnson (Gosforth), M. Young (Gosforth); C. White (Gosforth), R. Cunningham (Gosforth), J. Bell (Gosforth), S. Bainbridge (Gosforth), T. Roberts (Gosforth), I. Richardson (Gosforth), G. Smallwood (Northern), R. Anderson (Gosforth).

REPLACEMENTS: W. Telford (Alnwick), I. Ramage (Gosforth), T. Bell (Alnwick), C. Dixon (Tynedale), P. Holden (Northern), I. Pringle (Morpeth).

Table tennis

Griffiths celebrates return with treble win

Alan Griffiths, the Welsh champion, made a triumphant return to international table tennis in the Europea League at Cardiff yesterday. Griffiths, out of favour with the selectors for the past two years, was unbeaten in three games as Wales scored a 7—0 victory over Guernsey, their second success by this margin in the third division.

Scotland also scored two 7—0 wins and their match against Wales tonight should settle the championship and promotion to the second division next season.

Scotland fielded their full strength team in overcoming Jersey. Richard Yule played a dominant part, not only winning his two singles but also sharing in two doubles victories.

First series

RESULTS: Scotland 7, Jersey 0—K. Rodger beat P. Maguire, 21—7, 21—11; R. Yule beat T. Quin, 21—8, 21—9; C. Dalrymple beat P. Soper, 21—19, 21—9; Dodger and Yule beat Maguire and Quin, 21—10, 21—9; Yule and Dalrymple beat Quin and Soper, 21—7, 21—6; Rodger beat Quin, 21—4, 21—13; Yule beat Maguire, 21—8, 21—17.

Wales 7, Iceland 0—M. Thomas beat J. Cristiansson, 21—8, 21—7; N. Thomas beat S. Konradsson, 21—8, 21—6; S. Jones beat K. Rialsdottir, 21—14, 21—11; M. Thomas and N. Thomas beat Konradsson and Cristiansson, 21—7, 21—9; D. Welsman and M. Tyler beat Konradsson and S. Einarsdottir, 21—15, 21—18; N. Thomas beat Cristiansson, 21—11, 21—12; M. Thomas beat Konradsson, 21—14, 21—14.

Portugal 7, Guernsey 0—J. Moreira beat I. Powell, 21—12, 21—9; J. Marques beat D. Webb, 21—9, 21—17; A. Fernandes beat D. Powell, 21—11, 21—12; J. Alvoerio and Marques beat I. Powell and Webb, 21—14, 21—15; Alvoerio and J. Cardoso beat I. Powell and J. Powell, 16—21, 21—18, 21—19; Marques beat I. Powell, 21—16, 21—19; Moreira beat Webb, 21—17, 21—14.

Second series

Wales 7, Guernsey 0. A. Griffiths beat Webb 21—11, 21—7; D. Welsman beat I. Pwell 21—1, 21—15; L. Tyler beat J. Pwell 20—22, 21—14, 21—16; Griffiths and Welsman beat Webb and I. Powell 21—17, 21—10; Welsman and Tylor beat Webb and D. Powell 21—17, 21—17; Griffiths beat I. Powell 21—8, 21—13; Welsman beat Webb 21—11, 21—16.

Scotland 7, Iceland 0. D. Hannah beat Konradsson 21—11, 21—17; Rodger beat Kirstjansson 21—9, 21—9; V. Thomson beat Einarsdottir 21—13, 21—9; Yule and Rodger beat Konradsson and Kristjansson 21—17, 21—7; Yule and C. Dalrymple beat Kristjansson and Rialsdottir 21—6, 21—13; Rodger beat Konradsson 21—9, 21—8; Hannah beat Kristjansson 21—16, 21—15.

For the record

Golf

US TOUR EARNINGS: 1, J. Miller, $54,000; 2, B. Lietzke, $51,749; 3, L. Hinkle, $35,066; 4, J. Pate, $29,700; 5, D. Edwards, $26,200; 6, D. Halldorson, $21,275; 7, W. Rogers, $21,042; 8, L. Trevino, $13,550; 9, J. Mahaffey and D. Poal, $13,200; 55, P. Oosterhuis (GB), $1,920.

Cycling

ROTTERDAM: Six-day: 1, D. Clark and R. Allan (Australia), 301 pts; 2, R. Pijnen and J. Raas (Netherland), 389 pts; 3, P. Sercu (Belgium) and A. Fritz (WG), 299 pts.

Ice Hockey

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Boston Bruins 5, Buffalo Sabres 1; New York Rangers 6, Calgary Flames 3; Minnesota North Star 6, Montreal Canadiens 3.

Cricket

CAPE TOWN: Currie Cup: Western Province, 234 and 285 for 5 dec (A. J. Lamb 95 not out, L. Seeff 81); Eastern Province, 317 for 6 dec and 1[illegible] for 5 (G. Cook 6[illegible]). Match drawn.

DURBAN: Currie Cup: Transvaal, 301 and 22 for no wkt; Natal, 225 for 6 dec (C. Wilkins 71). Match drawn.

Speed skating

HEERENVEEN: European women's championships: 1,000m: 1, N. Petruseva (USSR) 1min 24.74sec; 2, K. Enke (EG) 1:25.66; 3, B.-E. Jensen (Norway) 1:26.99; 26, A. Horsepool (GB) 1:34.90. 500m: 1, N. Petruseva 42.20; 2, K. Enke 42.50; 3, A. Bonrama (Netherlands) 43.02; 25, A. Horsepool 47.46. 1,500m: 1, N. Petruseva 2:10.46; 2, G. Schönbrunn (EG) 2:11.10; 3, K. Enke 2:11.88; 25, A. Horsepool 2:23.46. 3,000m: 1, G. Schönbrunn 4:36.28; 2, N. Petruseva 4:38.70; 3, D. Pleshkova (USSR) 4:39.50.

Skiing

BULLE: Giant slalom: 1, J. Luthy (Switzerland) 2 min 25.96 sec (two legs); 2, D. Stapleton (US) 2:27.63; A. Zhirov (USSR), 2:27.71.

Tennis

LUCERNE: V. Amaya (US) beat T. Okker (Netherlands), 6—3, 7—6; Noah (France) beat V. van Patten (US), 2—6, 7—6, 6—3.

Basketball

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION: Boston Celtics 92, Detroit Pistons 90.

Latest European snow reports

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Piste	Conditions Off piste	Runs to resort	Weather (5 pm)	°C
Andermatt	200	400	Closed	Closed	—	Snow	-5
Runs closed, avalanche danger							
Arosa	140	160	Good	Heavy	Fair	Snow	-7
Top runs closed							
Avoriaz	200	300	Good	Powder	Good	Snow	-4
Heavy snowfall, skiing limited							
Grindelwald	120	260	Good	Powder	Good	Snow	-2
Perfect skiing, few runs closed							
Isola 2000	30	60	Fair	Varied	Fair	Snow	3
Small covering of new snow							
Murren	215	500	Good	Powder	Good	Snow	-5
Snowfall continues							
Seefeld	120	210	Good	Powder	Good	Snow	-2
Heavy snowfall for three days							
St Anton	160	500	Good	Powder	Good	Fine	-3
Few runs open, avalanche danger							
Zermatt	85	170	Good	Good	Good	Cloud	-2
Good skiing conditions							
Wengen	150	280	—	Powder	Closed	Snow	-4
All lifts closed, record snow depth							

In the above reports, supplied by representatives of the Ski Club of Great Britain, L refers to lower slopes and U to upper slopes. The following reports have been received from other sources:

W GERMANY

	Depth (cm)	State of piste	Weather	°C
Garmisch	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Hindelang	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Kleinwalsertal	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Mittenwald	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Oberammergau	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Oberstaufen	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Oberstdorf	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

NORWAY

	Depth (cm)	State of piste	Weather	°C
Finse	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Geilo	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Gol	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Lillehammer	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Norefjell	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Oslo	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Voss	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Rjukan	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Derbyshire cricket, club and county, will profit from the presence of Guy Willatt

Benevolent gnome with steel in his eyes

By Steve Elliott

When Guy Willatt took over the Derbyshire captaincy in 1949 during the days of amateurs and professionals, the first thing that he did was to insist that all his players changed in the same room. The decision tells you a great deal about the man. He is a democrat yet wholly dedicated to the maintenance of standards. He is a tough competitor yet a sportsman. He is self-effacing with regard to his own scholarship yet convinced of the need of academic excellence.

He has spent the past 14 years as headmaster of Pocklington School and retired at Christmas to live with his wife and three sons in his beloved Repton, where he was educated and later taught. He will serve on the Derbyshire committeee and, despite the advancing years, will still play occasional club matches.

Only the season before last, in his sixtieth year, he was batting with a 17-year-old who wandered down the wicket between overs and announced cheerfully: "Do you know, sir, batting with you, I'm absolutely knackered!" Many have experienced the same predicament. Willatt promptly ran himself out!

The same year he scored a hundred for Old St Catharine's members against the college at Cambridge, but only after he had run out two colleagues, including the senior tutor, with his score on 99 not out. "Plus ça change . . ."; although he did not play regular first-class cricket, after a distinguished Cambridge career, until the age of 34, Willatt knew both the crests and the troughs. He twice played for "The Gentlemen" against "The Players" and, as a captain showed a tactical shrewdness and skill in man-management that, allied to his talents as a dour left-handed bat, would surely have merited consideration in the current England side.

He also recalls the less enviable aspects of the game with even greater clarity. "I ducked inside the line of one from Tom Dewdney when I was playing for Kendal in the Northern League and the next thing I knew was waking up in hospital and hearing the sister say, 'Take his pulse every 10 minutes'. It was the same day that poor Collie Smith was killed. I was very lucky."



Guy Willatt in 1947. Today he is still willing to serve

He also experienced a wide range of quality in his educational career. "I taught at a ghastly Prep school in Middlesex before going up to Cambridge. The classrooms were divided by curtains, one had to do duty ever other night and received the princely remuneration of £100 per annum." But at Repton, Edinburgh Academy, Heversham and Pocklington he experienced and helped to create differing categories of excellence.

His first headmastership was at Heversham where he laboured against bureaucratic tyranny and interference to the point of breakdown; the relative calm of Pocklington must have come as a welcome relief. His talents as a cricketer were soon in demand and he batted with distinction in helping "The Pixies"—a Pocklington team based on staff boys and Old Boys—to narrow defeat in the final of the first Cricketer national club knock-out.

Predictably Pocklington's cricket has flourished but a firm ambition of the headmaster, himself a soccer Blue, was that the school's rugby should, before his departure, achieve a greater or at least equal degree of success. His wish has been granted. Last season the school enjoyed magnificent results but in the current season they have surpassed themselves. Eighteen matches have been played and eighteen won, including victories over QEGS Wakefield, Bradford GS, Leeds GS, and Worksop. Guy Willat has watched every match.

At the school's rugby supper, which girls attended for the first time, Willatt exercised a delicate version of "Droit de Seigneur". The rugby captain was required to select one willing and appropriately personable young lady to be the recipient of the headmaster's chaste kiss. The event was predictably cheered to the echo.

Short but powerfully built, Willat has the looks of a benevolent gnome and he is hardly the most fashion-conscious of men. Affectionate rumour at Pocklington affirms that he has been mistaken by visiting parents for his own gardener; but there is steel in the deep-set eyes as well as kindliness.

He had few rows during his reign as Derbyshire captain but one malefactor who occasioned his wrath received a verbal blast that he will probably still remember. "I have just played at Swansea in front of 20,000 miners and every one of them had more manners than you. You're not leaving until I get an apology." It was forthcoming. Without men like Willatt, sport and education would be the poorer.

Rugby League

Further boost for an event which keeps on growing

By Keith Macklin

One of the Rugby League's sponsored competitions, the John Player Trophy has multiplied its aggregate attendances year by year since the first competition 10 years ago, figures released yesterday showed. During the first season the aggregate total was 105,479. Already this season with the final being played next Saturday 150,775 have passed through the turnstiles and a further 10,000-plus can be expected for the Barrow v Warrington game at Wigan.

"A fifty per cent increase in attendance figures over 10 seasons is tremendous when one considers that in some competitions gates are declining", David Howes, the league's public relations officer, said.

The popularity of the game is expected to be given a further boost with the showing of match highlights on ITV. This will begin next month and details of the Granada and Yorkshire TV venture will be given on February 9. A slot following News at Ten is expected for a Monday evening screening of a top first division game leading to the championship climax.

In the list of top 10 try scorers this season nine out of the 10 are new faces from last season with only Ian Ball, of Barrow, retaining his place. Top of the list with 24 tries is John Crossley, the stand-off half for the second division leaders, York, who needs only two more tries to equal the second division record held by Geoff Munro, an Oldham winger. Ironically, the speedy Crossley was made available to the first division leaders, Castleford, last season but they returned him to York after a month's trial. Consolation for Castleford is that their young Welsh winger, Terry Richardson is second in the table with 15 tries. Third is Andrew Fletcher, of Wakefield Trinity, who has threatened to quit the club because a teammate "keeps getting at me".

Only two players have played and scored in every match this season. They are Steve Diamond (Wakefield Trinity) and John Gorton (Swinton). Last season's leading try scorers, Steve Hubbard (Hull Kingston Rovers) and Keith Fieldings (Salford) trail in the table with 11 tries each.

Hubbard could be one of the surprise candidates for an international place when the England selectors meet on February 9 to choose the team to play Wales in the triangular tournament. Others likely to come into contention are Ball (Barrow), Wood (Fulham), Potter and Case (Warrington) and Harkin (Hull KR).

A remarkable tribute to a player's popularity among his peers will be staged at a theatre in St Helens tonight. George Nicholls, the St Helens and Great Britain forward whose career is likely to end this season because of an accumulative toll of injuries, is the guest of honour at a testimonial roadshow. International teammates from several Australasian tours will travel from all parts of the country to be there, with Len Casey, the Hull KR forward, making a 350-mile round trip by car to pay his personal tribute. Casey and Nicholls were on the 1979 tour of Australasia.

Eight French changes

Toulouse, Jan 20.—France today announced a rebuilt side to face Wales in a Rugby League international at Narbonne on January 31.

Eight changes have been made to the side beaten 11—3 by New Zealand here last month. They have recalled players injured at the time and included a new cap. He is 23-year-old Christian Macalli, a hooker.

TEAM: M. Pillon, S. Rodriguez, [illegible]

Reserves: P. Fourcade, M. [illegible].—Reuter.

Racing

Badsworth Boy has better chance than most in Newbury lottery

By Michael Phillips
Racing Correspondent

Badsworth Boy, Fire Drill and Whisky Go Go, three entries for the Schweppes Gold Trophy at Newbury next month, dominated the finish of the Blakedown Handicap Hurdle at Worcester yesterday. Ridden by Tommy Carmody, Badsworth Boy shrugged off his big burden and brushed his rivals aside. Monica Dickinson, who was there deputizing for her son, the trainer, Michael, confirmed that Badsworth Boy will definitely take his chance in the annual lottery at Newbury.

Mrs Dickinson added that Silver Buck, the stable's dual winner of the King George VI Steeplechase, is in good order and will run next on the same afternoon at Newbury in the Compton Steeplechase.

Badsworth Boy looks a better horse this season than he did last when he had a spell of steeplechasing. In last year's Schweppes he could finish only sixth, but judged on yesterday's performance he is going to make his presence felt much more this time. John Santer, Hill's man on the spot, was so impressed with the way that Badsworth Boy beat Fire Drill and the others that he slashed the horse's price to 12 to 1.

After yesterday's result Fire Drill has eased in the market to 20-1, and understandably so because it is impossible to envisage him beating Badsworth Boy at Newbury. The feeling in the Fire Drill camp was that the blinkers that he was wearing for the first time had no effect at all. Carmody may well have been lucky to escape the wrath of the stewards because he and Badsworth Boy were the cause of no little bother after jumping the second last hurdle. It was then that Badsworth Boy veered to his right. In the mêlée that ensued Raging Torrent was the meat in the sandwich.

Ma Maison was expected to complete a double for Dickinson by winning the Haigh Whisky Novices' Hurdle (qualifier) but, for the second time in as many races, he ducked to his right and ran out just before a hurdle with his amateur rider, Dermot Browne.

His race was eventually won by Sailor's Return and anyone who had the good fortune to watch his rider, Peter Scudamore, not only then but also in the race before will know why he has been tipped to become the champion jockey one day. Scudamore's strength on Sailor's Return had to be seen to be believed. At no stage did he give up when defeat was staring him in the face all the way up the straight. Half an hour earlier he had given another quite exceptional exhibition of persuasive horsemanship to win the Martley Handicap Steeplechase on Slippery Dick.

Slippery Dick and Sailor's Return are trained near Stow-on-the-Wold by David Nicholson whose stable can do little wrong these days.

No-one will appreciate winning the Well To Do Challenge Cup at Towcester today more than Tim Forster who owned the horse of that name and trained him to win the Grand National in 1972. Well To Do was left to Captain Forster by the late Heather Sumner, whose husband, John, annually presents this trophy in her memory. Captain Forster is relying upon Medoc who has won over today's course and distance this season and at Fontwell Park in the meantime. There he finished nearly five lengths ahead of Monty Python who is one of his rivals again. Monty Python has a good record at Towcester, but he will be meeting Medoc on 4lb worse terms.

STATE OF GOING (official): Towcester: Soft. Folkestone: Hurdles course, heavy. Chase course, good to soft. Tomorrow: Newton Abbot: Soft. Lingfield Park, Heavy.

Towcester programme

1.0 WATERHALL STEEPLECHASE (Novices: Div I: £849: 2m 50yd)

6 2-041 Regalus, R. Westbrook, 7-11-12 Smith Eccles
8 0130 All Bonus (B), C. James, 8-11-5 .. McNally
11 0-010 Cole Porter, M. Banks, 6-11-5 .... Champion
16 00-00 Hidden Myth, K. Bailey, 6-11-5 .... Webber
18 .030 King's Champion, R. Armytage, 9-11-5 Scudamore
21 0u30 Master Orys, T. Forster, 7-11-5 .. Francome
22 130p My Hussar, F. Richards, 9-11-5 .. Mr Tutton 7
23 0434 Pacemen, N. Gaselee, 7-11-5 .... Linley
24 0443 Prince Fury, J. Webber, 6-11-5 .. Mr Webber
31 fp00 Silent Tango, A. Blackmore, 7-11-5 .. Coogan 4
33 0-432 Lollipopman, J. Old, 5-10-7 .... May

7-4 Regalus, 11-4 Master Orys, 9-2 Prince Fury, 6-1 Lollipopman, 8-1 Pacemen, 10-1 King's Champion, 20-1 others.

1.30 LONGWATER HURDLE (Div I: Novices: £552: 2m 5f)

2 01 Mike Channon, P. Makin, 5-11-12 Smith Eccles
4 00-pp Bally Goshawk, P. Cleverly, 6-11-4 Mr Cleverley 4
5 Ballaport, R. Hobson, 6-11-1 .... Shaw 7
8 0-0u0 Courtneigh, J. Edwards, 6-11-1 ...... Blacker
9 0-000 Eliza's Toddy, J. Elliott, 6-11-1 Mr Fogerty 4
10 0024 Game Bid, Rex Carter, 7-11-1 .. Mr Bennison 7
19 02-f0 Scrumping, J. Gifford, 8-11-1 .... Champion
20 60i2 Spaced Out, T. Bailey, 6-11-4 .... Morshead
21 p-0p0 Stellata Donna (B), J. Dalton, 5-11-4 R. Davies
22 -0300 Wreckit, P. Felgate, 5-11-1 .... Francome
25 2200 Ballacorey, T. Marshall, 5-11-2 .... C. Brown
26 0 Cold View, H. O'Neill, 5-11-2 ...... Gracey 4
27 Eskimo Doll, Mrs C. Marriage, 5-11-2 Hives 4
28 0000 Julard, J. Leigh, 5-11-2 .... Coogan 4
31 0 President Elect, M. Tate, 5-11-2 .. Carmody
32 000 Ropey Jo, J. Peacock, 5-11-2 .... Breeze 7
35 pp Rugan Wonder (B), W. Charles, 5-11-2 Charles 4
36 Country King, M. Thorne, 1-10-5 Mr Mann 7

4-5 Mike Channon, 4-1 Spaced Out, 6-1 Ballacorey, 10-1 Game Bid, 12-1 Scrumping, Cold View, 20-1 others.

2.0 WATERHALL STEEPLECHASE (Novices: Div II: £849: 2m 50yd)

8 00 Brown Bowler, F. Walwyn, 6-11-5 .. M. Floyd
12 b0b0 Denny Street, D. Nicholson, 6-11-5 Scudamore
17 0-0003 Just Peep, J. Mowlem, 7-11-5 ...... R. Floyd
20 2044 Lysippe (B), Mrs J. Pitman, 8-11-5 .. Smart
23 4b00 Orx, T. Bill, 9-11-5 .... R. Davies
24 0-00 Our Lawrie, T. Forster, 6-11-5 .. Francome
27 -f0p2 Prince Andrel, J. Dudgeon, 7-11-5 .. Linley
30 0-f00 Star Cloud, Mrs J. Stratford, 7-11-5 J. O'Neill 7
32 Welton Gamesun, J. Webber, 7-11-5 Mr Webber
34 0p20 Safeguard, D. Elsworth, 5-10-7 .... C. Brown

5-2 Prince Andrel, 7-2 Safeguard, 9-2 Just Peep, 6-1 Denny Street, 8-1 Brown Bowler, 10-1 Lysippe, 12-1 Our Lawrie, 20-1 others.

2.30 DEER PARK STEEPLECHASE (Handicap: £886: 2m 5f 110yd)

1 0204 Bawnogues, M. Tate, 10-11-12 ...... Burke
5 211f Whistle For Gold, T. Forster, 8-10-11 Francome
8 42-32 Dawn Fox, J. Webber, 9-10-7 ...... Webber
11 0040 Ballyknock Boy, Mrs M. Thomas, 8-10-0 Bastard 4
12 p-000 Mister Johnnie, M. Oliver, 7-10-0 ...... —

15-8 Dawn Fox, 9-4 Whistle For Gold, 7-2 Bawnogues, 8-1 Ballyknock Boy.

3.0 TOTE HURDLE (Handicap: £1,429: 2m)

2 3/00 Rusthall (D), F. Walwyn, 8-11-10 W. Smith
3 0310 Herr Capitan (CD), J. Old, 5-11-4 Mr Whetham 4
8 1-000 Cruise Missile (D), M. Thorne, 5-10-12 Mr Mann 7
9 p-000 Liboi (CD), Mrs R. Lomax, 9-10-10 J. O'Neill 7
10 n/00 Four Fathoms (D), A. Goodwill, 7-10-0 Coogan 4
14 -0031 Hopton, J. Harris, 6-10-0 .... Harris 7
16 0-030 Veramente, S. Mellor, 6-10-0 ...... Carroll
17 0010 Crook of Devon (CD), J. Perrett, 8-10-0 R. Rowe 4
18 0000 Profit Line (CD), M. Tate, 7-10-0 G. Davies 7
20 0004- House Breaker (D), Mrs M. Thomas, 7-10-0 Bastard 4
22 6000 Letligo (B,D), P. Felgate, 5-10-0 Scudamore

15-8 Herr Capitan, 11-4 Hopton, 4-1 Veramente, 6-1 Cruise Missile, 8-1 Crook of Devon, 12-1 Rusthall, 20-1 others.

3.30 WELL TO DO STEEPLECHASE (Handicap: £1,377: 3m 190yd)

2 1/31 Hard Outlook, A. Wates, 10-11-0 .. Webber
3 3231 Physicist (CD), J. Gifford, 9-11-1 Champion
9 b0d3 Monty Python (B,CD), Mrs J. Pitman, 9-10-12 C. Brown
11 3121 Medoc (CD), T. Forster, 9-10-9 .. Smith Eccles
14 -p030 Son and Heir (B), J. Edwards, 11-10-4 Blacker
15 p-24f Never Rock, J. Webber, 12-10-0 J. Williams 7
18 0p- White Magic, V. Soane, 11-10-0 .... Candy
19 20-pp Young Hawk, P. Cleverley, 8-10-0 Mr Cleverley 3
20 0pp/ Peeping Tom, M. Tate, 11-10-0 .... C. Smith

9-4 Medoc, 11-4 Physicist, 7-2 Hard Outlook, 9-2 Monty Python, 10-1 Never Rock, 12-1 Son and Heir, 20-1 others.

4.0 LONGWATER HURDLE (Div II: Novices: £552: 2m 5f)

3 Brave Effort, P. Felden, 6-11-4 ...... —
5 p00p- Capitalist, Mrs J. Stratford, 9-11-4 J. O'Neill 7
8 Glen Doone, J. Webber, 7-11-4 .. Mr Webber
10 p-40b Indian Rulette, P. M. Taylor, 6-11-4 Keightley 7
11 2220 Leading Lady, R. Hobson, 6-11-4 .. D. Shaw 7
13 0402 Melerek, Miss A. King, 6-11-4 ...... Kear 4
14 40-00 Never For Me, M. Tate, 6-11-4 .... C. Smith
15 0000 Ninth Addition (B), P. Felgate, 6-11-4 R. Davies
16 0- Noble Venture, D. Nicholson, 7-11-4 Scudamore
18 pp/p Pepsi's Fleece, P. Hedger, 9-11-4 M. Richards 7

[illegible]

Folkestone programme

1.15 NORTHIAM HURDLE (Div 1: novices: £552: 2m 110yd)

2 002-u Cutler, A. Moore, 6-11-6 .... Moore 4
3 0-0o0 Ebony Bill, D. Gandolfo, 6-11-6 .. Barton
4 pp10- Get-Thy-Commercial (B), Mrs R. Murdoch, 6-11-6 .. Turnell
5 0000 Oriental Prince, M. Ryan, 7-11-6 .. Pearce
8 pp0 Chinese Kung Fu, J. Long, 5-11-4 Rowell
10 0020 Riflefire (B), Pat Mitchell, 5-11-4 R. Hughes
12 Her Excellency, J. Bridger, 4-10-5 Jenkins 7
13 2 Jamie Scott, M. Masson, 4-10-5 Goldstein 4
15 4312 Kasland, H. O'Neill, 4-10-5 .... McCourt
17 0f King Hagen (B), A. Pitt, 4-10-5 G. Jones
18 0 Saldatore, D. Morley, 4-10-5 .. B. Davies
20 03fu TV Star, G. Huffer, 4-10-3 .. McLaughlin 4
21 0002 Wimsey, R. Hoad, 4-10-3 ..... De Haan 4

5-4 Wimsey, 11-4 Jamie Scott, 7-1 Kasland, 8-1 TV Star, 10-1 Saldatore, 12-1 Riflefire, King Hagen, 16-1 Oriental Prince, 20-1 others.

1.45 BATTLE CHASE (Selling: £836: 2m)

201 3204 Bill's Brother (B), Mrs E. Andrews, 12-11-3 .... Mr Andrews 7
202 4p01 Bobbie Gordon (D), R. Whitaker, 11-11-3 .... Turnell
203 11-fp Bryan Boru (C, B), D. Gandolfo, 10-11-3 .... Barton
205 3000 Geoff's Choice (C,D), J. Long, 11-11-3 Haynes
207 40ff Liquidation, H. O'Neill, 7-11-3 .. McCourt
208 p/2p Prides Pal, T. Clay, 11-11-3 .... Mr Clay
211 0f00 Skerries, R. Hoad, 6-11-3 ...... Rowell
212 03pp Strong Hand (D), A. Ingham, 7-11-3 Steve Knight
214 0f03 Allanstown, H. O'Neill, 5-10-7 .... Bartow

11-10 Bryan Boru, 4-1 Bobbie Gordon, 8-1 Bill's Brother, 10-1 Prides Pal, 12-1 Geoff's Choice, 14-1 Allanstown, 16-1 Strong Hand, 20-1 others.

2.15 HURST GREEN CHASE (Handicap: £1,587.20: 2½m)

301 4-p31 Tragus (D), D. Morley, 9-12-7 B. Davies
302 4-043 Fjord (D), T. Forster, 11-11-7 Maj Faulkner
304 -2112 All Right Jack (B), D. Gandolfo, 8-11-0 .... Barton
305 2102 Caravino, R. Whitaker, 8-10-12 .. Rowker
306 0f21 Tower Moss, A. Neaves, 8-10-5 C. Mann 7
308 0000 Extrovert, D. Jermy, 9-10-0 .... Stroud 7

2-1 All Right Jack, 7-2 Tragus, 4-1 Fjord, 5-1 Tower Moss, 13-2 Caravino, 25-1 Extrovert.

2.45 ROBERTSBRIDGE HURDLE (Handicap: amateurs: £851: 2m 5f)

402 0300 Sleepless Knave, P. Walwyn, 6-11-8 Bradstock
403 030- Donegal Prince, P. Kelleway, 5-11-7 Sherwood
404 3300 Genovese (C, B), D. Grissell, 9-11-5 Mrs Grissell 4
405 2400 Ellanstad, Rex Carter, 6-11-4 Richardson 7
406 0001 Bell Hop, P. Mitchell, 5-11-2 .... Wilson
409 0120 Hidden Talent (CD), Mrs S. Oliver, 9-10-13 .... Miss Oliver 7
410 /pp0 Bandyke, J. Dudgeon, 7-10-8 Maj Shaw 3
411 f-000 Ballycarn, A. Pratt, 6-10-3 .. Madgwick 7
413 0000 C'est Afrique (B), J. Long, 10-10-1 O'Brien 7
415 -0600 Crex Crex, Mrs D. Oughton, 6-10-0 Bealby 7
417 00f0 Singing Fool, D. Jermy, 5-10-0 .. Ayres 7
418 -020f Lydias Own, D. Browning, 7-10-0 Miss Miller 7

15-8 Donegal Prince, 3-1 Bell Hop, 6-1 Sleepless Knave, 7-1 Genovese, 10-1 Ellanstad, 12-1 Hidden Talent, 14-1 others.

3.15 BREDE CHASE (Novices: £886: 3¼m)

501 0-212 Aldo (C), D. Morley, 6-11-9 .... B. Davies
502 -144u Bujoli (CD), R. Ledger, 8-11-9 Mrs Ledger 4
506 p000 Bronze Image, J. Long, 8-11-2 .... Mr Hoad
507 p-000 Carraig Dubh, G. Kindersley, 7-11-2 P. Hobbs
508 Davy's Lyric, M. Kelly, 8-11-2 Mr Ballers
510 f4f/ Dracons Girl, Mrs R. Murdoch, 9-11-2 Goldstein 4
511 0-f0p Duke William, R. Voorspuy, 7-11-2 Kinane
512 0300 Glissando, B. Wise, 8-11-2 ...... Rowell
513 00 Kinde Kinky, A. Neaves, 8-11-2 C. Mann 7
515 0- Lucky Vane, G. Balding, 6-11-2 .. Coyle 4
516 -0000 Oaklawn, H. O'Neill, 6-11-2 .... McCourt
518 p-2p0 Prestbury, T. Clay, 9-11-2 ...... Mr Clay
519 4f-p0 Reine Beau (B), D. Grissell, 11-11-2 Mrs Grissell 4

Evens Aldo, 4-1 Glissando, 5-1 Bujoli, 10-1 Oaklawn, 14-1 Carraig Dubh, 20-1 Lucky Vane, 25-1 others.

3.45 NORTHIAM HURDLE (Div II: novices: £552: 2m 110yd)

601 f Mountain Man, D. Morley, 5-11-11 B. Davies
605 000-0 Guernaventure, A. Neaves, 6-11-6 C. Mann 7
606 My Sunny, R. Sheather, 9-11-6 .. Barlow
608 -0323 Rodshot, D. Grissell, 6-11-6 .... Turnell
609 00 Armorial, A. Ingram, 5-11-4 .. Steve Knight
610 03-03 Bihas Bounty, A. Pitt, 5-11-4 .. Scarfe 7
617 Cyprus Sun, W. Musson, 4-10-5 P. Hobbs

4-6 Mountain Man, 4-1 Bihas Bounty, 5-1 Cyprus Sun, 6-1 Rodshot, 20-1 My Sunny, 25-1 others.

Folkestone selections

By Our Racing Correspondent
1.15 Jamie Scott. 1.45 Bryan Boru. 2.15 Fjord. 2.45 Donegal Prince. 3.15 Aldo. 3.45 Mountain Man.

Towcester selections

By Our Racing Correspondent
1.0 Regalus. 1.30 Mike Channon. 2.0 Prince Andrel. 2.30 Whistle For Gold. 3.0 Herr Capitan. 3.30 Medoc. 4.0 Ankus.

Worcester results

1.30 (1.31) WARNDON CHASE (Novices: £614: 2½m)

SANTOSS, b g, by Alba Rock—World Cruise (J. Bradley), 8-10-12 .... G. Davies (10-1) 1
Scarlet Emperor Mr K. Darby (5-1) 2
Henlow Gamble .. R. Hyett (12-1) 3

TOTE: win, £1.01; places, 56p, 51p, 20p. Dual F: £2.22. CSF: £5.84. J. Bradley, Chepstow. 8l, 3½l. Five Bells (4-1 fav) bf. Gypsy Roamer (50-1), 4th. NR: Bellarina.

2.0 (2.2) BLAKEDOWN HURDLE (Handicap: £1,224: 2m)

BADSWORTH BOY, ch g, by Will Hays—Falcade (D. Armitage), 6-12-7 .... T. Carmody (9-1) 1
Fire Drill .. R. Strange (15-8 fav) 2
Whisky Go Go .. F. Morris (7-1) 3

TOTE: win, £1.22; places, 22p, 15p, 40p. Dual F: £2.04. CSF: £2.59. M. Dickinson, Harewood. 1½l, 3l. Shell Burst (5-1), 4th. NR: High Lee, Broughty Pier.

2.30 (2.34) MARTLEY CHASE (Handicap: £1,180: 3m)

SLIPPERY DICK, ch g, by Soc ... Moss—Slipfold (C & C Stainless Steels Ltd), 9-10-4 .... P. Scudamore (9-4 fav) 1
China Cottage .. T. Carmody (9-2) 2
Twilight Gold .. G. McCourt (8-1) 3

TOTE: win, 71p; places, 14p, 16p, 40p. Dual F: 57p. CSF: £1.24. D. Nicholson, at Stow-on-the-Wold. 15l, 5l. Cedor's Daughter (6-1), 4th.

3.0 (3.4) HAIG WHISKY HURDLE (Novices: Qualifier: £1,317: 2m)

SAILORS RETURN, b g, by Harwell—Luisiana (Mrs S. Tainton), 5-11-6 .... P. Scudamore (15-2) 1
Chelsea Island Mr M. Low (66-1) 2
Galway Blaze .. T. Carmody (7-2) 3

TOTE: Win, 77p; places, 18p, £1.13, 16p. Dual F: £15.92. CSF: £38.31. D. Nicholson, at Stow-on-the-Wold. 4l, sh hd. Ma Maison (4-5 fav) ro. Sea Cargo (25-1), 4th. NR: Hugh's Folly, Owens Deep.

3.30 (3.32) COLWALL CHASE (Novices: Handicap: £1,120: 2m)

QUEEN OF THE SOGS ... Straight Deal—Smiling Jungle (C. Henry), 8-10-5 .... A. Webber (9-2) 1
King Vince .. S. Morshead (6-1) 2
Tom's Little Al .. P. Leach (7-1) 3

TOTE: Win, 55p; places, 16p, 26p, 28p. Dual F: £1.15. CSF: £5.20. P. Bailey, at Wantage. 6l, 2½l. Lucky Runner (100-30 fav, u). Filletts Farm (40-1), 4th. NR: Bellarina.

4.0 (4.3) BROADWAY HURDLE (Handicap: £1,050: 3m)

CELTIC RAMBLER, ch c, by Celtic Cone—Tudor Rambler (J. Curtis), 6-10-12 .... S. Morshead (9-2) 1
Katiiza .. J. Burke (25-1) 2
Ten Troed Miss J. Wallace (50-1) 3

TOTE: Win, 50p; places, 10p, 41p, £5.88, 51p. Dual F: £1.25. CSF: £11.36. F. Rimell, at Severn Stoke. 5l, 3l. Paralleray (100-30 fav). Royal Wren (11-1), 4th.

JACKPOT: £341.70. PLACEPOT: £38.90.

Football

Suspended Strong ruled out of derby tie

Les Strong, the experienced Fulham defender, will miss his side's FA Cup fourth round London derby match against Charlton, the third division leaders, at Craven Cottage on Saturday. Strong was suspended for two matches yesterday by an FA commission in London after collecting 20 disciplinary points. Malcolm Macdonald, the Fulham manager, said: "It's what we expected. Two games is the going rate at the moment and we had already made plans for Saturday."

Ridley, the Chesterfield midfield player, and Speedie, the Darlington defender, who made a 500-mile round trip to appear before the commission, also received two-match suspensions for reaching 20 points.

The commission also ruled that Norwich City were wrong to fine Bond, their defender, a week's wages for failing to report for early treatment to a groin injury. The matter arose when Bond was ruled out of an FA Cup tie against Cambridge United. Soon afterwards he was fined, and he recently lost the team captaincy because he is on the transfer list. Bond said: "I felt a principle was at stake and it is nice to know that my principles have been upheld."



Bond: appealed successfully against Norwich's fine.

The defeat of West Ham, the FA Cup holders, at Wrexham on Monday night in a third round second replay has relieved some of the London club's fixture congestion. Their first priority is promotion to the first division and they are still involved in both the European Cup Winners' Cup and the League Cup.

John Lyall, their manager said: "Our defeat at Wrexham has taken the pressure off us. Some people might say that it is a good thing for us to go out of the FA Cup, but at least we proved in the way we played that we wanted to stay in the competition."

Wrexham of the second division, now entertain Wimbledon, of the fourth division, in the fourth round on Saturday. Dario Gradi, the Wimbledon manager, watched Wrexham victory and said: "I am very disappointed that West Ham lost. Obviously there is the financial aspect, but I also felt we had a better chance of beating West Ham. Their directness might have given us more chance."

Terry Cooper, 36, the former England and Leeds full back, is preparing to name himself in the Bristol Rovers team against Southampton. Cooper, Rovers' player-manager, said: "I am pretty fit and go out with the players every day. We have a few injuries and not a very large first team squad and I will be stepping up my training this week with a view to playing. It is a game in which I feel we will need my experience, because we have a lot of teenagers."

Enfield, who have already knocked out Hereford and Port Vale, travel to Barnsley after two successive cup defeats. On Saturday they were knocked out of the London Senior Cup by Harrow Borough and on Monday Aylesbury beat them in the F.A. Trophy. Eddie McCluskey, their manager, said: "Losing against Aylesbury means that a big chunk has gone from our season, because the Trophy is our premier competition. I just hope we're a bit sharper in front of goal on Saturday."

Tottenham, at home to Hull City, make fitness checks today on Villa, Hughton and Lacy. Keith Burkinshaw, the Tottenham manager, has not decided yet whether to recall Ardiles, who was fined by the club and omitted from the side against Arsenal after returning late from the Gold Cup competition in Uruguay. Hull will be without Horswill and Moss, who are both recovering from operations, and Mutrie and Whitehurst, who are ineligible. Ferguson, who has an ankle injury, and Roberts, who has flu, are doubtful.

Gray, the Wolves striker, played and scored in a private training game against Stoke on Monday and could return against Watford. Gray has not played for two weeks and before that was out of action for two months following a knee operation.

Johnston, Middlesbrough's highly-rated young midfield player, and Ashcroft, their centre half, both hope to recover from knee injuries in time to face West Bromwich Albion. Manchester City, at home to Norwich, will be without Reid, who is suspended, and Ranson, who is injured. Booth and Henry are expected to replace them. Norwich hope to have Fashanu and Hoadley back after injury.

Exeter meet Leicester without Pearson, their former Millwall striker. He was ruled out yesterday after his wife went into hospital for an operation.

Yesterday's results

ALLIANCE PREMIER LEAGUE: Barnet 1, Bath City 3.
SOUTHERN LEAGUE: Cup: fourth round: Basingstoke Town 1, Chelmsford City 0; Bognor Regis v Addlestone and Weybridge—postponed. Gloucester City 2, Alvechurch 1.
NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE: Cup: third round: Runcorn 1, Witton Albion 1. League: Buxton 1, Macclesfield 2.
ISTHMIAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Carshalton Athletic 2, Hendon 1; Leytonstone and Ilford 1, Hitchin Town 1. First division: Billericay Town 1, St Albans City 0; Clapton 0, Bishop's Stortford 4, Wembley 1, Farnborough Town 1.
ATHENIAN LEAGUE: Harefield United 2, Burnham 1; Hoddesdon 1, Marlow 3.
RUGBY UNION: Bristol 26, Royal Navy 6. County match: Hertfordshire II 24, Suffolk 18.

Turnstile power could keep Wimbledon at home

By Norman Fox
Football Correspondent

Wimbledon supporters who dislike the prospect of their team playing at Selhurst Park in a ground-sharing arrangement with Crystal Palace have been given a slight chance of appeasement. The club's chairman, Ron Noades, has indicated that if attendances at Plough Lane increase by about 1,000 from an average of around 2,000, the scheme may be dropped.

Realistically there is little prospect of Wimbledon turning down the opportunity of playing at Selhurst Park if the Football League give their approval to the "working arrangement" between a consortium led by Mr Noades and the Crystal Palace club.

On Monday a consortium of businessmen bought the 75 per cent controlling interests of the present Crystal Palace chairman, Raymond Bloye, and although the League's Management Committee are against directors being involved in more than one club, and hope to ban such arrangements next month, they are not averse to ground-sharing.

The announcement that Mr Bloye's shares would be transferred to the consortium does not appear to have settled all of the speculation. Last night a board meeting at Charlton Athletic finished with some hints that they too would be interested in a ground-sharing arrangement with Crystal Palace, although no firm statement was forthcoming. This is not the first time that Charlton have expressed ideas of joining with another club. They have previously been involved in informal discussions with Crystal Palace and Millwall.

Mr Noades said he was disappointed with the support given to Wimbledon since their election to the Football League but added that if the team did play at Selhurst Park he would arrange for supporters to have coach transport. This suggestion will not win the approval of those supporters who have already said Wimbledon will become nothing more than Crystal Palace's reserve team.

As for the League's misgivings over joint directorship, Mr Noades said that separate boards could be formed to ensure that the clubs were run independently.

Although ground-sharing is widely accepted on the Continent, it has never won support in the Football League, except in times of emergency. The most recent proposal for such a scheme came in north London where Arsenal and Tottenham Hotspur were seriously interested in building a new combined stadium, but the idea was dropped after considerable opposition from residents in the vicinity of Alexandra Park, the proposed site.

Arsenal are now allegedly more interested in investing money in the former Dutch international Johan Cruyff, but they are in competition with several European and American clubs. Cruyff is currently listening to offers from as far apart as Valencia and San Diego.

Robertson may return to Scotland

West Bromwich Albion's long-serving Scottish defender Alistair Robertson has asked for a move after losing his place in recent games. Robertson, who has been with Albion for more than 10 years, put in a written transfer request after being forced out of his central defensive position by Martyn Bennett. He was recalled for the 2—0 victory over Brighton last Saturday but only because Bennett moved to full back to cover for the injured Brendan Batson.

The 28-year-old defender who has played alongside the captain, John Wile in more than 400 games for Albion has already attracted the interest of Scottish clubs, Rangers and Aberdeen, and Albion are expected to listen to offers.

Cambridge United have placed their strikers Roger Gibbins and John Lyons on the transfer list. Lyons, a £100,000 buy from Millwall three months ago, has been unable to gain a regular place in John Docherty's promotion-chasing second division side. Gibbins, whose previous clubs were Tottenham Hotspur, Oxford United, Norwich City and the American side New England Teamen, joined Cambridge last season.

Halifax Town have parted company with Bobby Flavell, a midfield player and are reporting the matter to both the Football Association and the Football League. He was left out of the side beaten at Bournemouth last Saturday. Then the manager George Kirby said that "a disciplinary matter" was involved. Flavell rejoined Halifax as a non-contract player last month after being released by Barnsley.

Preston North End, losing about £4,000 a week, yesterday took a double step to cut wage costs by announcing that Sean Haslegrave and Danny Cameron can leave on free transfers. Haslegrave, a former Stoke player, cost Preston £22,000 from Nottingham Forest two years ago, and this season rejected a £15,000 move to Bury. Cameron, a full back, joined Preston on a free transfer from Sheffield Wednesday in 1976.

Alan Ball will not follow the example of his World Cup colleague Martin Peters, and hang up his boots to concentrate on management full time. With Peters leaving the dressing room to take on the manager's job at Sheffield United, Ball is now the sole member of England's World Cup winning team still playing.

FA against date change

Officials of the Football Association will oppose attempts to move the home international championship matches back to the middle of the season, when they meet representatives of the Football League in Manchester next month. Members of the Scotland, Ireland and Wales FA will also be present as football's governing bodies discuss the possibilities of a later start to the season, which could cause congestion at the end.

Scotland, for one, would like a return to the old system, but an FA spokesman, Glen Kirton, said: "We think the championship has been reasonably successful at the end of the season. What we would like to see is for the games to be stretched over a longer period—at the moment they are condensed into a week—to accommodate the Cup Final."

Moves to start the season later were instigated by the Football League as a result of pressure from clubs at the seminar in Birmingham last October. They feel that a clash with summer holidays is costing them money and they want to delay the start of the season by a fortnight.

Meanwhile, the FA secretary, Ted Croker, told two Scottish MPs in London yesterday that the England v Scotland international could be abandoned for good if there is crowd trouble at this year's match.

Season follows familiar Scottish pattern

By Iain Mackenzie

Scottish football has had to live with a number of problems for the whole of this century. Hooliganism is one, the emigration of much of the finest talent another, control often in the hands of the wrong people a third. Some followers of the game, and a dwindling band that is, say that a fourth is predictability and the one which presents the biggest problem of all.

It is hard to argue. Records show that since 1900 the Scottish League championship has been held 74 times, the break being during the last war. In that time Rangers and Celtic between them have won it 62 times, leaving a meagre 12 titles to be shared among seven other clubs: Hibernian (four), Heart of Midlothian and Aberdeen (two each) and one each to Third Lanark, Motherwell, Dundee and Kilmarnock.

Since, of those only Motherwell and Kilmarnock do not operate from one of Scotland's four major cities, an adjunct to the problem is the weakness of small town teams.

With three months remaining of this season a familiar pattern has formed already. In each of the three divisions two sides are on their own at the top and in the premier division and in the second division two are equally alone at the bottom. With a third of the programme still to be played, some of it doubtless on almost unplayable surfaces, there is time for loss of form by some and revival by others. The chances are, however, that when the final tables are published in May they will shown no dramatic change.

One encouraging note is that Aberdeen lead the premier division. When they won it last year there were many who said it was only because Celtic threw away points they should have taken towards the end of the campaign. This season, with Aberdeen at present a point ahead of Celtic and with a game in hand, the doubters are suggesting that the northern side are where they are only because the Glasgow pair are temporarily weaker than they were.

Weaker or not, Celtic and Rangers still fill second and third places with the others nowhere; if Aberdeen do stumble on the run-in yet another title will go to Glasgow. Two former champions, Hearts and Kilmarnock, are well adrift at the other end and are almost certain to be relegated, Hearts after only a season in the premier division.

Ironically they will probably be replaced by their close rivals Hibs, whose last minute goal on Saturday in one of only two matches played in Scotland because of the weather gave them a 1—0 win over Falkirk, and a five-point lead over Raith Rovers. Raith have three matches in hand and as two of their nearest challengers, Ayr United and St Johnstone, drew the other match played, they drop farther behind, the Kirkcaldy side are set for promotion. The irony of that is that at the end of last season Hibs were relegated from the premier division to make room for Hearts.

At the foot of the inappropriately named first division Berwick Rangers are well on the way to relegation with only ten points from 25 games and are likely to be accompanied by Stirling Albion. Alloa lead the second division followed, happily for those who care about amateur football, by Queens Park.

Today's fixtures

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated.
ALLIANCE PREMIER LEAGUE: Boston v Frickley.
OTHER MATCH: London University v Arsenal (at Motspur Park).
RUGBY UNION: Bridgend v South Glamorgan Institute (7.15); Cambridge University v RAF (7.30); Pontypool v Ebbw Vale (7.0); Pontypridd v Neath (7.0); The Army v Oxford University (at Aldershot, 2.30).
COUNTY MATCH: Norfolk v Lincolnshire (at Holt, 3.30).
HOCKEY: London League: Oxford University v Teddington (3.15).

Hockey

India may come to Luton for World Cup build-up

By Sydney Friskin

India, the Olympic champions, have expressed a wish to join England, Scotland, and West Germany in the Hockey Association's quadrangular tournament on October 17 and 18, a venue for which has not yet been found. Among the more suitable grass pitches discussed at a press conference in London yesterday, was Wardown Park, Luton.

The HA originally invited Spain, from whom nothing has been heard, and the invitation may, instead, go to India who did not take part in the Champions Trophy tournament in Karachi this month. The quadrangular will be England's final preparation for the World Cup tournament in Bombay at the end of the year.

Poland, who have qualified for the World Cup event, will shortly be visiting these shores. They play Ireland in Dublin on March 14 and 15, when Wales will be entertaining Scotland in Cardiff. Arrangements are being made for Poland to play England in midweek before taking on Wales in Cardiff on March 21 and 22.

There is little likelihood of England touring Europe this summer as originally hoped but later there will be a tour of Australia. The dates proposed are August 1 to 31, but England prefer August 3 to 27. There will be five full international matches.

On the domestic front, a settlement now seems likely in the dispute between the HA and the organizers of the London League. The matter was passed back by the HA council to the management committee who are near the point of agreement to split the league into two divisions, the top 10 in the first division (to be played on a home and away basis) and the bottom 16. The new scheme, if accepted, will not come into effect until the beginning of the 1982-83 season.

Indoors, the draw for the quarter-final round of the national club championship, sponsored by Rank Xerox, was announced. Beckenham and Tulse Hill, last year's winners and runners-up respectively, will meet in the first match at Crystal Palace on March 13, starting at 5.30 pm. The draw is: Beckenham v Tulse Hill; Pelicans v Blackheath; Teddington v East Grinstead; Southport v Slough.

England, Scotland, Austria and Denmark will take part in the international indoor tournament at Crystal Palace on February 28. At the HDM tournament in The Hague this weekend there will be two teams from England, the national side playing as the Lions and the Roses.

Miss Hobley's three goals prove decisive

By Joyce Whitehead

South 3 Midlands 2

South opened the women's territorial series of 10 matches with a well-deserved win at Home Park, Windsor, yesterday.

Midlands started where they had left off 10 days ago when they beat South Wales, 2—0. Jane Swinnerton scored a perfect solo goal in the first five minutes but from then on, though they hustled the South, they could not finish.

For the South it was certainly Lesley Hobley's day in the circle. She scored three copybook goals. By half-time she had equalized from a corner. Later, she converted a fine pass across the goalmouth from the left by Sheila Harding to equalize for the second time and, minutes later, she scored the winning goal, again from a corner.

SOUTH: P. Gibbon (Berkshire), D. Richardson (Surrey), M. Tranks (Middlesex), A. Baker (Sussex), K. Dodd (Berkshire, captain), S. Fryer (Sussex), J. Walsh (Hampshire), S. Lister (Sussex), L. Hobley (Buckinghamshire), L. Randolph (Berkshire), S. Harding (Middlesex).

MIDLANDS: L. Barlow (Bedfordshire), K. Llewellyn (Warwickshire), D. Jones (Bedfordshire CPE), M. Allen (Bedfordshire CPE), M. Flanagan (Warwickshire), B. Holdon (Northamptonshire), K. Gurr (Leicestershire), K. Gordon (Leicestershire), J. Swinnerton (Staffordshire), B. Woodward (Leicestershire), M. Grimley (Leicestershire, captain).

Law Report January 20 1981

Chancery Division

Company dissolution declared void

In re Thompson & Riches Ltd
Before Mr Justice Slade
[Judgment delivered January 16]

His Lordship, in the exercise of his discretion, made an order declaring that the dissolution of a company before a winding up order was made was void, on an application by the petitioner under section 352(1) of the Companies Act, 1948, even though the company had been dissolved some months before the winding up order. His Lordship said that a petitioner should seek relief under that section or section 353 of the Act promptly, as soon as is reasonably practicable after he has become aware of the dissolution, in accordance with the common practice adopted in the light of the decision in In Re Cambridge Coffee Room Association Ltd.

The petitioner, Mr M. F. J. Thompson, a contributory of Thompson & Riches Ltd, of Ashington, Northumberland, issued a notice of motion seeking a declaration under section 352(1) that the dissolution of the company on August 21, 1979, was void and in the alternative a second notice of motion under section 353 that the petitioner be at liberty to amend its winding up petition and the subsequent order by the addition of an order that the dissolution be declared void immediately prior to its winding up.

Section 353(5) of the Companies Act 1948 provides: "At the expiration of the time mentioned in the notice the registrar may, unless cause to the contrary is previously shown by the company, strike its name off the register, and shall publish notice thereof in the Gazette, and on publication in the Gazette of this notice the company shall be dissolved: Provided that . . . (b) nothing in this subsection shall affect the power of the court to wind up a company the name of which has been struck off the register."

Section 352(1) provides: "Where a company has been dissolved, the court may at any time within two years of the date of the dissolution, on an application being made for the purpose by the liquidator of the company or by any other person who appears to the court to be interested make an order, upon such terms as the court thinks fit, declaring the dissolution to have been void, and thereupon such proceedings may be taken as might have been taken if the company had not been dissolved."

Mr R. D. Hacker for the petitioner; Mr John Lindsay for the official receiver.

MR JUSTICE SLADE said that Thompson & Riches Ltd, a private company incorporated in 1965, ceased to carry on business as milk retailers in 1973 and had since filed no annual returns. Mr Thompson, petitioning as a shareholder, requested information about the company's general financial position and asked to examine documents relating to its business. None were supplied. In those circumstances the petitioner presented a winding up petition on August 14, 1979.

Some months previously the Registrar of Companies had taken the steps necessary to dissolve a defunct company, and on August 21, 1979, the company was dissolved under section 353(5) of the Companies Act, 1948. The petitioner, being unaware of the dissolution, proceeded with his winding up petition. Mr Justice Oliver, in ignorance of the dissolution, made a compulsory winding up order, and the official receiver was appointed provisional liquidator.

His Lordship referred to section 353(5) (b), which expressly provided that nothing in it should affect the power of the court to wind up a company the name of which had been struck off the register and to In re Cambridge Coffee Room Association Ltd ([1952] 1 All ER 112), where Mr Justice Wynn-Parry said that the only question was whether it was more convenient to restore the name of the company to the register before making a winding up order and, after concluding that it was more convenient, said that he did not intend to cast doubt on cases in which a winding up order had been made without the name being restored to the register. His Lordship concluded that Mr Justice Oliver's order was valid though the company's name had not been restored to the register.

Mr Justice Wynn-Parry reached his decision because he considered that doubt existed as to whether a compulsory winding up order alone would amount to an order made by the court within the meaning of section 354 so as to divest the Crown of the interest in the company's assets which the Crown would otherwise have under that section and so as to reinvest it in the company. The purpose of the present applications was to resolve the difficulties that would otherwise arise from the existence of such doubt.

The official receiver discovered that the company had been dissolved after the date of the presentation of the petition but before the making of the winding up order. The court had been told that in such cases it was the practice to inform the court and the petitioner's solicitors. The petitioner's solicitors had been informed on November 15, three weeks before the winding up order had been perfected.

Following such communication the course ordinarily adopted by a petitioner was to come to the court as soon as possible, before the order was perfected, for the purpose of ensuring that the company's assets were vested in it and not in the Crown and that the liquidator would be able to act effectively. If a petitioner followed the common practice, adopted in the light of the Cambridge Coffee Room case, he would ask for rescission of the existing winding up order; liberty to amend his petition so as to include an application for restoration of the name of the company to the register; an order for such restoration; and a new winding up order. In his Lordship's experience that course gave rise to few difficulties.

Regrettably, that course was not followed by the petitioner's legal advisers. Without applying to the court, they allowed the winding up order to be perfected in the ordinary way and in the common form on December 5, 1979.

Turning to the first motion, seeking a declaration that the dissolution of the company was void, his Lordship said that the declaration was sought under section 352 (1) and not section 353 (6). Mr Lindsay accepted, in the light of In re Test Holdings (Clifton) Ltd ([1970] Ch 285, 287), that the petitioner could not be criticized for applying under section 352 (1).

Furthermore, he accepted, in his Lordship's judgment correctly, that section 352 (1) by its terms gave the court jurisdiction to make the order sought. The application had been made within two years of the dissolution and by a person who was manifestly "interested" as being a contributory of the company. It was stated that the joinder of the Registrar of Companies as a respondent was necessary, but his Lordship saw no factors which ordinarily would make joinder of the registrar necessary, either in his own interest or in the public interest, where the company was in liquidation.

The Treasury Solicitor had stated that no objection would be taken on behalf of the Crown to the grant of the declaration, so that no difficulty arose on account of the Crown's possible interest.

Accordingly the question was one for the court's discretion. Mr Lindsay said that the official receiver did not feel able to resist the order sought. If it were made the official receiver would be in a position for the first time effectively to exercise his functions without any doubt as to his powers in regard to the company's assets. His Lordship was told that on the particular facts he would be able to do so without embarrassment, particularly since the company had ceased trading many years ago. Having regard to all the circumstances his Lordship would make the order sought.

His decision made it unnecessary to consider the petitioner's second motion.

Although the petitioner had succeeded in obtaining relief under section 352(1) even though the winding up order had been perfected many months before, such relief might not always be available in the future. The court had a discretion under the section and might feel bound to refuse to exercise it even in favour of a petitioner who brought himself within the wording of the section if there was opposition to the application on reasonable grounds, for example, by the official receiver or the Treasury Solicitor or others.

If there was long delay, the official receiver might be able to make an application under section 352 as a person interested under that section. Therefore, in all but exceptional circumstances, it was advisable for the petitioner to apply before the winding up order was perfected for relief in accordance with the common practice adopted in the light of the Cambridge Coffee Room decision. It was incumbent on him to take all necessary steps to ensure that practical effect was given to the winding up order obtained.

His Lordship granted a declaration that the dissolution was void.

Solicitors: Turner, Peacock for Basil D. Laitner & Smythe, Sheffield; Treasury Solicitor.

Improper interviews

C v C

A circuit judge who saw each parent separately in his private room while hearing custody proceedings adopted a very unusual procedure, Lord Justice Ormrod said in the Court of Appeal. The use of such informal and irregular procedure was sufficient to allow the mother's appeal from the judge's order by which care and control of a boy aged seven had been granted to his father, who lived and worked in Zambia.

HIS LORDSHIP said that the commencement of the custody proceedings before Judge Kershaw at Preston County Court was delayed because the parties were negotiating. The parties came to an agreement that there should be joint custody orders relating to the two children, the boy and a girl aged 12, care and control of both children to be with the mother. The judge was left with the question of the father's access to the children.

Both counsel saw the judge in his private room to explain the delay and to inform him of the agreement. The judge told them that, in view of a letter written by the mother concerning her difficulties with her daughter, he was reluctant to make the order sought.

The judge then saw each child separately in his room. He then interviewed the mother, in the presence of a welfare officer, and the father alone, but both in the absence of counsel. He told counsel in general terms what each parent had said, intimating that the father had impressed him favourably, and invited counsel to cross-examine the parents on the evidence which they had not heard. The judge gave a short judgment and made the split order.

It was most unfortunate that the matter had been dealt with in that way. A judge was entitled to alter an agreement made by the parties and their legal advisers if there were good reasons for so doing. To separate two siblings would require cogent reasons. There were none. It was a serious matter to separate a young boy from his mother and send him off to live alone with his father and a servant in Zambia. It was impossible to support the order. The mother's appeal should be allowed and the care and control of the boy granted to her.

Lord Justice Brightman and Mr Justice Reeve agreed.

City's youths at home

Manchester City, beaten finalists in the last two FA Youth Cup competitions, are drawn at home to Newcastle United in the fourth round to be played on or before February 7.

DRAW: Portsmouth v Chelsea or Tottenham, Birmingham v Orient, West Ham v Cardiff, Derby v Manchester United, Stoke or Everton v Watford, Coventry or Wrexham v Arsenal or Queens Park Rangers, Manchester City v Newcastle, Shrewsbury v Leeds or Sunderland.

An Irish sales record

Turnover at Goffs bloodstock sales in co Kildare last year was a record 11,553,245 guineas, a spokesman for the firm said. The previous best was achieved in 1979 with 10,400,690 guineas.

Cup postponement

Kuala Lumpur, Jan 13.—The Asian Cup hockey championship, scheduled for Pakistan from March 6-13, has been postponed until next year, mainly because of India's reluctance to take part until after next year's World Cup in Bombay.

French take no risks

Paris, Jan 19.—Cyr Cardron, the French bantamweight champion, has been refused permission by the French Boxing Federation to meet Carlos Hernandez, of Spain, for the European junior lightweight title on January 21. They believe that boxing above his weight would expose him...

Caroline Moorehead on the unpredictable pressures imposed by release after a long captivity

The ordeal still to be faced by the hostages

When Iranian students burst into the United States embassy in Tehran 445 days ago it was the beginning of the longest modern terrorist siege. No one doubts that the 52 men and women about to enter the American Forces hospital in Wiesbaden now will be suffering from a trauma of release almost as confusing and shocking as that of their capture. The question is what can be done about it. The fact is that psychiatric opinion today is sharply divided between those who insist that the hostages must be "decompressed", allowed to simmer down in the very company of those with whom they have been confined, and doctors who maintain that the sooner they are returned to some kind of previous normality the more likely their recovery.

Psychiatric work with the victims of terrorist sieges, kidnappings and hijackings is inevitably very new. When the first Dutch train was hijacked by South Moluccan terrorists in 1975 the survivors returned home as soon as they were released. No one thought they needed help. Only when a second train was taken two years later, and at the same time 105 Dutch children were kept prisoner in their school, did it emerge that the first group of hostages were still suffering from the aftermath of their ordeal.

Many complained of feelings of betrayal and abandonment. Relatives came forward to say that they had felt helpless before outbursts of irrational emotion or bouts of deep depression. "Hijack therapy" pioneered by two Dutch psychiatrists, Dick van Mulder and Willem van Dijk did not, however, prevent the hostage children later showing signs of severe school phobia and chronic obsessiveness about their studies.

Other modern evidence comes from the Swedish bank robbery that gave the world the "Stockholm syndrome", the sense of affection that builds up between captor and captive; this bond, it seems, is an enduring one. Kristin, one of the girls held in the vaults, continued years after her release to write to her captor.

From my own research with the victims of kidnappings emerged a picture of lost ambition. Alfredo Danesi, heir to an Italian coffee empire, once a fanatically enthusiastic worker, told me that after some weeks in the hands of kidnappers he returned home no longer caring very much about anything. Jasper Cross, the British diplomat held in Canada, said that ever since his release he has felt as if he were living on borrowed time.

What is special about the American hostages is the sheer length of their captivity and that they have not been held on their own; and in this they are most like survivors of concentration camps and prisoner-of-war camps who lived under expectation of death and absolute uncertainty about the future.

Dr Frank Ochberg, an American specialist in this field, has put together a profile of possible reactions to disasters of this kind. Initially, he said, a victim on his release can hardly fail to suffer from anxiety.

Whether these symptoms persisted or whether they turned either into deep depressions, the "pervading joylessness" reported by ex-prisoners of concentration camps, who decades later remained impervious to therapy, success or family happiness, or into paranoia, depends, he explained, both on the character and personality of the survivor and on their personal history.

Being confined, he found, had lowered the resistance of some to infection and with it their ability to tolerate change, while others never again regained a previous good memory or physical hardiness.

Clues to the future recovery from more than a year's confinement are possibly to be found in the way the American hostages coped with the actual captivity. Few details about how they were kept have emerged, but whether alone or in groups, in relative physical comfort or acute hardship, to survive beyond the first hours of frantic anxiety they will all have moulded personal formulas for survival. Just what these were, say the psychiatrists, depends on their nature, on whether they were "good copers", who marshalled their forces to remain calm; whether they were the kinds of strong personality nearly immune from vulnerability; whether they had some sort of relevant previous experience, of Army discipline, for instance.

Studies of prisoners-of-war in the Far East have shown that those who, in psychiatric language, were "passive and dependent" adapted badly; those who were either "healthy" or "schizoid" did not. Determination to live, prayer and hope are very important.

In Theresienstadt concentration camp, those who were most fortunate were either priests, doctors and nurses who were able to concentrate on the problems of others, or those people able against all odds to retain their own sense of values.

Self esteem is crucial. Sir Geoffrey Jackson, the British ambassador held captive by the Tupamaros for eight months in Uruguay, set rules about how his kidnappers were to address him. He would answer to "Jackson" or "Senor" but not to "Cell No 10". He survived the ordeal with fortitude and, superficially at least, unscathed. Conversely, being treated like animals in a zoo, paraded or subjected to personal vilification—as the American hostages have been—has broken some men who could stand physical pain but not the erosion of their dignity.

Several kidnap victims told me that they felt throughout their confinement that their experience was easier to bear than that of their families. Certainly many wives and children have stood up heroically during the ordeal only to fall prey to despair when it was over, showing many of the same symptoms—anxiety, depression, paranoia—as the hostages themselves.

Some have felt extreme guilt at being able to do so little; others, rage against the authorities for seeming so impotent. What is clear is that nothing is ever the same again—marriages broken, relationships cemented, aspirations altered.

The families of the American hostages may not have suffered the same sort of personal lonely agony of hoaxes, false leads, physical proofs that the captive was alive—locks of hair, phials of blood, fingertips, that have tormented those of kidnap victims, but it is not surprising to read of the waiting wife of one American hostage talking of "needing a shakedown period too".

In the past, governments have been very ambivalent about what they should do for the returning survivors of sieges in which the victims are mere symbols, pawns in international politics. The American siege in Tehran is likely to change that attitude, create, possibly all over the world, a feeling of government responsibility for them. But the very confusion that surrounds their homecoming, the strictures about keeping families away from Wiesbaden while assembling a team of psychiatrists for debriefing, is an indication of how very uncertain those waiting are as to what they are likely to find.



Prayer helps . . . American hostages celebrating Christmas mass with a bishop of the Armenian Church.

Why the Russians are boring into the ice cap

Twenty-five years ago the Russians, whose country includes more frozen wasteland than any other in the world, sent a small expedition to the other side of the globe on the first Soviet exploration of the Antarctic.

Today, as the Russians celebrate the anniversary, about 1,400 people, including over 600 scientists, are in the southern continent on the biggest and most ambitious Soviet programme, to explore for minerals, bore deep into the ice-cap, map the Antarctic mainland and study the ionosphere.

The Russians are now among the most active and experienced of the 12 nations exploring Antarctica.

The latest expedition, now halfway through its work during the Antarctic summer, is the twenty-sixth to set off from the Institute for Arctic and Antarctic Research in Leningrad.

It is led by Dr Vladimir Shamontyev, a 50-year-old geographer with vast experience of wintering on drifting icefloes, and is formidably equipped.

Eight ships are taking part, including the main supply vessel, Kapitan Markov, vessels for studying the ocean floor, three helicopters, four light aircraft, snow-tractors, hauler-trucks and mobile homes.

Last year a direct air link was established between Moscow and the main Molodyozhnaya observatory in Enderby Land, one of seven permanent Soviet research stations.

A runway was built on an icefloe 60 miles away by a special machine for heating and compacting the snow and it is strong enough to bear fully-laden turbo-prop Ilyushin 18D aircraft and even the larger Ilyushin 62 jets.

The flight takes 27 hours, stopping at Aden and in Mozambique, and is now used regularly to ferry scientists and supplies to the frozen continent, a distance of 10,000 miles. Helicopters take the cargo on to the observatory.

Half the team of 600 scientists who arrived in October relieved those who stayed in the Antarctic stations throughout the bitter southern winter which buffeted the Soviet outposts with winds of up to 120 miles an hour, destroyed ice wharves on the coasts and delayed supplies.

The current expedition has several main tasks. One is to drill through the ice-cap near the Komsomolskaya research station, 10,000 feet above sea level and 500 miles inland from the Mirny base on the Davis Sea coast.

The well, to be sunk about three miles over three seasons, is being cut by an electric heat drill which will bring up test samples of ice, the "congealed annals" of climactic conditions centuries ago. The glacier at this point is almost 10,000ft thick.

Marine geologists are also making seismic probes into the sedimentary deposits at the bottom of the Weddell Sea, close to the South Pole, to study the continent's underwater bonding with South America. They have already discovered a huge rift running from the Atlantic through the Weddell Sea deep into the ice-cap.

They will establish a new base, "Druzhnaya 2", about 400 miles west of a seasonal base "Druzhnaya 1", set up five years ago on a glacier at the southern shore of the sea.

Earlier this year a new meteorological station "Russkaya" was opened in Marie Byrd Land. On the shore of the Amundsen Sea in the western sector of Antarctica. Scientists are measuring industrial wastes in the snow caused by atmospheric pollution.

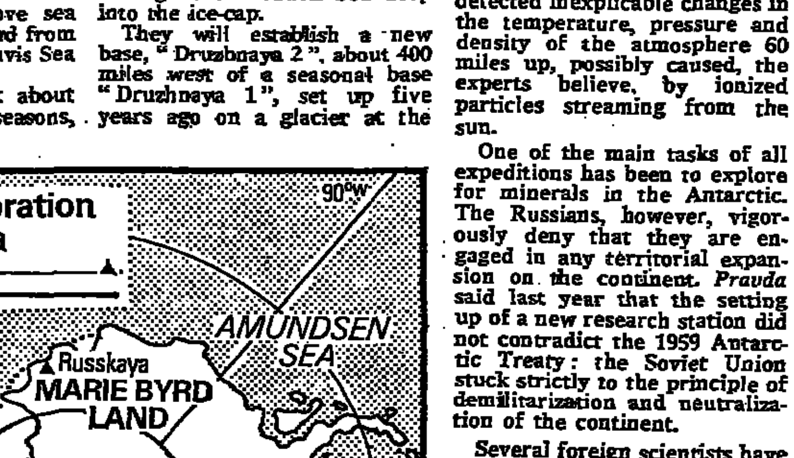
They are also studying the ionosphere. Last year one base reported the presence of a mysterious energy force causing unusual disturbances in the upper atmosphere. Laser beams detected inexplicable changes in the temperature, pressure and density of the atmosphere 60 miles up, possibly caused, the experts believe, by ionized particles streaming from the sun.

One of the main tasks of all expeditions has been to explore for minerals in the Antarctic. The Russians, however, vigorously deny that they are engaged in any territorial expansion on the continent. *Pravda* said last year that the setting up of a new research station did not contradict the 1959 Antarctic Treaty: the Soviet Union stuck strictly to the principle of demilitarization and neutralization of the continent.

Several foreign scientists have joined the Russians in their researches. Americans and East Germans were attached to the twenty-fifth expedition and East German geophysicists are taking part in the present mission.

In 1978 polar explorers completed a two-month journey across the continent to the Vostok station at the "pole of cold". They travelled 2,000 miles by sledge and caterpillar train. Last year the Russians also published a new map of Antarctica which they said would be the basis for their search for valuable ores and minerals near the South Pole.

Michael Binyon



Sus, a new law for old?

Whatever positive effect the "sus" law may have had in combating street crime in the inner urban areas was far outweighed by the damage it did to relations between the police and the black community. "Sus" became a symbol for police discrimination against young blacks. In some cities it soured the attitude of the ethnic minorities to the police in particular and, by extension, to authority generally.

The police have consistently denied that they applied the law in a discriminating way, but there is enough evidence to suggest that there was bias on their part, although much of it may have been unconscious. But even if some of the black reaction has been exaggerated, the feelings engendered by "sus" are none the less sincere and deeply held.

It was therefore with a sigh of relief that the black community greeted, first, the recommendation by the Home Affairs select committee that "sus" should be abolished and the Government's decision to implement that proposal.

The Criminal Attempts Bill, which has just received its second reading in the Commons does indeed scrap "sus" (section 4 of the Vagrancy Act 1824). But it also creates a new offence—interference with vehicles—which critics among Labour MPs, blacks, civil liberties bodies, and lawyers claim will have virtually the same effect.

The "*sus*" law is objectionable because it makes it criminal to merely to intend committing a crime. That intention can be proved by policemen giving evidence of overt acts—not in themselves crimes—which arouse their suspicions. The new offence would make it criminal to "interfere" with a motor vehicle in a public place "with the intention of" gaining entry to it, or access to anything in it, or to discover "whether it is possible to gain such entry or access".

Interference is not defined, but mainly it will cover sidling up to a car and trying the door-handles. It could, of course, mean much less than that, for instance leaning on the car and looking inside.

How is the intent to be proved? It cannot be proved directly, of course, unless the accused admits it. Therefore the intention will have to be inferred by the act itself and it would in practice be for the accused to show that he did *not* intend to do any of the things mentioned in the section creating the offence. In which case, how will the new law differ, in practice, from the old?

In both cases evidence will come from the police that they saw the accused doing something to a car, and in both cases the intent of the person will have to be inferred from that act. If "sus" is used by the police to pick on young blacks, then so could the new law, its critics say, and the fear and antagonism felt by blacks, would remain unallayed.

The Government has claimed that the new law was needed because the law of attempt—even as *strengthened* and clarified in the Bill—could not be used unless the attempted crime was clear: whether it was attempted theft of the car, or of something in the car, or attempted taking and driving away, or attempt to commit criminal damage.

It is striking, however, that many police forces have hardly needed to use "sus" to fight street crime and would not need to use the new law.

The Government should consider whether it is worth taking the chance of reversing the favourable response by blacks which followed the announced abolition of "sus" by insisting on creating an unsatisfactory law which can only have the most marginal effect on the fight against crime.

Marcel Berlins
Legal Correspondent

Bernard Levin

A right reverend legendary curse

It is related that the vicar of Down Ampney, understandably displeased when thieves broke into his church and stole a safe (empty of valuables), together with the alms-box, held a Service of Commination in which he called down "God's anger and judgment" on the malefactors. The good pastor was clearly not altogether happy with the word "curse" (he used the 1928 Prayer Book, in which it does not occur in the Commination), but there is no doubt that, whatever he called it, that is what he was doing. And what is more, he expects it to work; the robbers, he declared after the service, "will be clobbered, probably by the civil authorities, or God may clobber them on His own". (Well, yes; if God cannot mete out punishment to a pair of wrongdoers without calling in the Watch Committee of the Rural District Council of Down Ampney to render unto God the things that are Caesar's, things have changed rather dramatically in the God department since I was a boy.)

The vicar, as a matter of fact, went quite deeply into the theology of the business; he pointed out that God might let the thieves off completely, added that their souls could be redeemed in the next world even if their bodies were punished in this one, and finished by expressing the firm belief that "The curse will bring them to repentance".

No surprise

All of which may provide thought, awe or entertainment, according to taste and theological views. But to another man of the vicar's cloth, a Minor Canon of St Paul's, it would certainly not have occasioned surprise. For the Minor Canon, in his day, had said all there was or is to be said on the subject of those who rob churches, those who curse them for doing so, and the effect on the former of the dreadful words of the latter.

Come; you surely need no more clues than that? Oh, very well:

The friars are kneeling, And hunting, and feeling,
The carpet, the floor, and the walls, and the ceiling.
The Cardinal drew Off each plum-colour'd shoe,
And left his red stockings exposed to the view;
He peeps, and he feels In the toes and the heels;
They turn up the dishes,—they turn up the plates,—
They take up the poker and poke out the grates,
—They turn up the rugs, They examine the mugs:—
But, no!—no such thing;—
They can't find THE RING!
And the Abbot declared that, "when nobody twigg'd it,
Some rascal or other had popp'd in, and prigg'd it!"

Quite; now you know. But I bet you haven't read it for at least as long as I, and that must be 30 years at least. As for the vicar of Down Ampney, it is plain that he has never read it at all, for if he had he would not have wasted time on the 1928 Prayer Book version of the Commination Service; he would have gone straight in, boots and all, with the Cardinal's curse:

He cursed him at board, he cursed him in bed;
From the sole of his foot to the crown of his head;
He cursed him in sleeping, that every night
He should dream of the devil, and wake in a fright;
He cursed him in eating, he cursed him in drinking,
He cursed him in coughing, in sneezing, in winking;
He cursed him in sitting, in standing, in lying;
He cursed him in walking, in riding, in flying,
He cursed him in living, he cursed him in dying!

And of course the good news for the watchful shepherd of Down Ampney is that it works. At least, it worked for the Cardinal, and I really do not see why a Roman prelate should have more of an inside track in these matters than an English country parson of the Anglican persuasion.

The day was gone, the night came on,
The Monks and the Friars they search'd till dawn;
When the Sacristan saw, On crumpled claw,
Come limping a poor little lame Jackdaw!
No longer gay, As yesterday;
His feathers all seem'd to be turned the wrong way;—
His pinions droop'd—he could hardly stand—
His head was as bald as the palm of your hand;
His eye so dim, So wasted each limb,
That, heedless of grammar, they all cried, "THAT'S HIM!"

Of all the great English anthologies — Percy's *Reliques*, Palgrave's *The Golden Treasury* (expanded and brought up to date by C. Day Lewis in 1954), Quiller-Couch's *Oxford Book of English Verse* (similarly revised in 1972 by Helen Gardner) the Reverend Richard Barham's *Ingoldsby Legends* are the least known today; I would not be surprised to learn that the book is not even in print. And it is not difficult to see why; the truth is that Barham's implacable facetiousness in his poetry is so far out of fashion that it will clearly never come back, and his prose ghost stories are far too insipid for modern tastes. Nor is there any help in the fact that, although he hunted widely and assiduously for legends to tell he told them all, prose as well as verse, in his own words; the *Ingoldsby Legends* are no more of a unity for that.

Yet *The Jackdaw of Rheims*, and that alone, survives, and I daresay it is known to thousands who would not recognize another line of Barham's, and who indeed have never heard of him and do not even know who wrote it. It has an innocence and a charm that, combined with the ingenuity of Barham's prosody, carries a reader irresistibly along, and as the tale unfolds to its double happy ending (for the Cardinal lifts the curse as formally as he imposes it, and the jackdaw thereafter leads a life of exemplary piety) it casts a glow that explains its hold on so many generations.

Nearest comparison

I suppose *The Pied Piper* is the nearest comparison (for all I know—I am no Browning devotee—its author may have used Barham as a model); it, too, has survived when so much of the poet's other work has perished, and for much the same reason, which is the good heart and good humour it contains, together with a story sufficiently strong to force its way into the memory and remain there. (Incidentally, Rossini's *The Thieving Magpie* is *not* a version of the same story.)

So you see, the vicar of Down Ampney had good poetic warrant for his fearsome Commination, and he could have found in Barham as well as in scripture support for his view that the thieves will not only be punished by divine authority but will repent and reform as soon as they have been. And indeed, compared to what happened to the poor jackdaw the fate our man of God envisages for *his* robbers ("*it could take the form of a road accident or nothing more serious than a fall downstairs and a broken collarbone*") is mild enough; anyway, if the villains are reading these lines, let them take heart from the final apotheosis of the Jackdaw of Rheims, who died in the odour of sanctity and was finally canonized as St Jem Crow. And if any of us should see a particularly woebegone church-robber in the next few days, let us resolve to tell the vicar that his curse has worked and he may now lift it.

LONDON DIARY

Brewster's cliffhanging session

One man who did not know which way to turn yesterday was Kingman Brewster, the United States ambassador in London. He spent a good part of the day listening to the cliffhanging news from Iran with one ear and the progress of President Reagan's inaguration in Washington with the other.

In spite of a day of momentous events, I gather that no special celebration was arranged at the embassy for either event, although staff found it difficult to keep their heads down at their everyday work. But there was immense relief, and not a few celebratory bottles of bubbly, at the select Inauguration Day reception hosted by the Ambassador at his official residence last night soon after the news of the hostages' release had been confirmed.

Concerning the more predictable of the day's two major stories, that on Capitol Hill, it was no occasion for Brewster to celebrate, as Jimmy Carter's departure from the White House also signals the impending departure of Brewster from Grosvenor Square. A former president of Yale University, he was a Carter appointee who arrived as Ambassador to the Court of St James's in May, 1977.

It would be highly unusual for him to be kept on by an incoming President who will have a great number of friends and associates to whom he will be obliged to offer plum posts, of which the London embassy is undoubtedly one. Brewster will, as a matter of course, offer his resignation to the new President, and has indeed let it be known to his staff that he intends to return home soon.

Diplomatic circles have been so busy watching the drama of the hostages that they have had little time to speculate on a possible successor. I shall pass on any straws that the wind blows by.

Rumbling on

The man who abolished the Navy's rum ration was impenitent yesterday, some 10 years after that shattering event. Admiral of the Fleet Lord Hill-Norton, who is about to front a BBC television series on sea power, told a press conference he knew the decision would hardly endear him to the lower deck.

"But what tipped the scale was when I discovered that the ration we were giving every sailor from the age of 20 was sufficient to disqualify him from driving." Asked if this also applied to driving a ship, the admiral pierced the questioner with a baleful eye and growled, "The officers didn't get the bloody rum".

Jarring note

Representatives of one of Britain's biggest jam manufacturers will be inviting MPs to taste their wares at teatime in the Palace of Westminster this afternoon. Their objective is to achieve a change in the present food and drugs laws which at least one local health authority has interpreted as making the sale of these long-established and popular products illegal.

Women's Institutes have been selling home-made jam for at least 50 years at church fetes and on market stalls. But last year health inspectors at Stockton-on-Tees ruled that any premises where sausages or potted, pickled, pressed or preserved foods were prepared for public sale had to be registered and inspected. And they declined to register the domestic kitchens of the local WI members.

Wendy Smith of the National Federation of Women's Institutes told me yesterday: "If all health authorities interpreted the Food and Drugs Act as strictly as that, we would be breaking the law every time we took a pot of jam to a vicarage fund-raising."

The WI members are incensed at the aspersions cast on their wholesome products, and the inevitable inference that they are in some way inferior to the commercial jams sold on supermarket shelves. They intend to give the Commons canteen a supply of WI jam to sell so that its superiority may be proved.

Patrick Jenkin, the Social Services Secretary, has been taking advice on how to interpret the relevant Act, and he has indicated his willingness to put forward an amendment which would remove the unwarranted stigma from home-made preserves. The WI wish he would hurry up and do it, so that their 422 regular weekly market-stalls throughout the country may be preserved from prowling trading standards officers.

A book recently published in New York is called "STD: A Commonsense Guide". *British readers looking to it for tips on how to avoid all those failed and misrouted telephone calls will be disappointed. As every American teenager knows, STD stands for sexually transmitted diseases.*

Taking cover

Is your home next to a target for a Russian H-bomb? The Kremlin has not got round to handing out maps showing the precise spots at which its missiles are pointing, but for a mere £15 you can now confirm your worst fears.

Aftermath, a London-based firm, reckons it can tell people the possible damage their homes could suffer from heat, blast and radiation in a nuclear attack. A report "specific to your home" will indicate "the direction from which these effects might be expected, based on known targets". Known? Really?

The report will advise on the level of medical supplies, food stocks, special equipment and other items which should be kept ready. The householder will be relieved to know that supplies are available from Aftermath in "a series of packs to increase survival capability". The cheapest is £60. Well, it makes a change from all those companies offering to build expensive fallout shelters as an insurance policy.

I would have rung them up to ask whether I should move to a basement hideout in Rockall, but nowhere in their literature is there a phone number. But they do offer to send me a risk assessment report if I send them my editor's home address. Oh, come on: Leonid wouldn't go *that* far, would he?



Star quality

Lady Donaldson, wife of Lord Justice Donaldson, appeal court judge and sometime head of the ill-starred National Industrial Relations Court, has declared her intention of making a further assault on that particularly well defended bastion of male domination, the City of London. She has been nominated as a candidate at the election in June of City Sheriff, and if successful will be the first woman ever to hold the post.

She first breached the City's defences in 1966 when she became the first woman member of the Square Mile's governing body, the Court of Common Council; in 1975 she went on to become the first female Alderperson.

Lady Donaldson, already a magistrate in the City, will find herself looking after the needs of judges at the Old Bailey if she wins the sheriffdom. But she is unlikely to have to attend to her husband; his main business is in the Queen's Bench Division in the Strand.

The Bible Society, in an advertisement for a programmer in the computer press, is offering "opportunities for Christians to use their computer skills in full-time service form God" at their new headquarters in Swindon. After the mundane language of the new Alternative Service Book, I trust this is not part of a plan to translate the Authorized Version into Data Basic.

Alan Hamilton

TIMES PAST
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WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Mr Ronald Reagan has assumed the Presidency of the United States, and with it the leadership of the western alliance, at a time when both much need to have their confidence restored. The loss of American confidence can be attributed partly to economic difficulties; partly to the fact that the United States no longer dominates the international scene to the extent it did in military, economic or diplomatic terms; and partly to the cumulative effect of successive blows, external and internal, to the country's self-respect.

The economic difficulties may be temporary, though they are none the less pressing for that. In his inaugural address yesterday President Reagan recognised the extent of the economic challenge, which is not to say that he has devised the best means for meeting it. One of the principal weaknesses of the policies he put forward during his election campaign was his simple belief that it would be possible to have massive reductions in direct taxation and an increase in defence expenditure without further inflation. He has subsequently repeated his commitment to cutting personal taxes by a third over three years. His Secretary of the Treasury has, however, been taking a distinctly more cautious line—which encourages the hope that the Reagan administration will be much less naive in its policies than might be assumed by listening to the President.

With sensible management the American economy should revive in due course. It will not be easy, with inflation running at its present high rate, to keep prices under control as the country comes out of recession; but at least there is no reason to regard these problems as incapable of solution. It is not possible to believe, though, that the United States can recover its former international predominance. Its diminished authority is something with which Americans need to come to terms, without exaggerating the decline in their power. This presents Mr Reagan with a psychological as much as a practical challenge.

It is one that he is peculiarly well fitted to meet. One of Mr Carter's tragedies was that he failed to appreciate the need for a leader to preserve a nation's myths without basing its policies on false hopes. Mr Reagan has exceptional skill as a communicator, whether on television or in person. He demonstrated this skill yesterday without encouraging exaggerated expectations—unless one regards his ambition to eradicate unemployment as too optimistic. It was worth taking that risk, though, in order to demonstrate his recognition of the suffering imposed by unemployment on the minority communities. His doctrine that "putting America back to work means putting all Americans back to work" may not easily be realized. But, along with his call for "equal opportunities for all Americans with no barriers born of bigotry or discrimination" it suggests a pleasing determination to be the President of all his people.

The problems of the western alliance are also partly psychological. Or at least they will require careful psychological treatment because some of the practical difficulties will not easily be removed. The alliance has suffered in recent years from the sense that the United States was neither sufficiently firm nor sufficiently consistent in its policies. This can be corrected. In so far as it is possible to judge a President's foreign policy intentions from his inaugural address, the evidence that Mr Reagan offered yesterday was mildly encouraging.

Some may regret his implied rejection of the Carter policy on human rights. But it was inevitable that Mr Reagan would reject that policy, and it has to be acknowledged that the Carter administration's application of the policy contributed to the impression of inconsistency. In general Mr Reagan spoke with sufficient friendship towards allies and sufficient firmness towards the Soviet Union, without being provocative.

But such general statements, no matter how appropriately phrased, cannot conceal the real differences in the way that the member states of the alliance see their national interests. The European members are more concerned than the Americans about detente and trade with eastern Europe. They are in general less ready to act outside Europe for the protection of western interests. They are made uneasy by the loss of relative American power, at the same time as they fear that this power might sometimes be used unwisely. There is also the anxiety that now that American power no longer predominates the United States may not be so ready to use it for the protection of Europe.

These fears may not all be justified. Indeed they are not all really consistent with each other. But if the alliance is to be more cohesive than it has been in the past few years the President of the United States will need to convey both a greater sense of strength and a greater sensibility to European interests, irritating though these may be. Here again Mr Reagan may be helped by his power to communicate. Few Europeans expect him to be a great President. But he may prove to be a President whom they can understand and with whom they can come to terms more easily than his recent predecessors.

SOME RELIEF FOR WHALES

It may be too soon for the whales of the world to spout a sigh of relief over Russia's announcement that it means to convert its far eastern whaling fleet to other uses. The Soviet Union is the busiest hunter of whales in the world—last year it accounted for one-third by weight of the entire world catch—but it has made large offers of an amendment in its ways before, without much apparent result. Moreover, the present voluntary system for control of whaling sets an overall quota for each whaling ground, which the countries operating there apportion among themselves. Even if the Russians really mean to stop whaling in the Antarctic regions, where the threatened larger species are caught, as well as in their eastern waters, the Japanese might simply fill the gap.

It would not be wholly surprising if Russia has decided to give up large-scale whaling. Partly because of the progressive marking-down of quotas, and partly because of an ominous tendency for the number and size of whales to decline, the aging Soviet fleet can hardly be very profitable any longer. In Japan, the second most active whaling nation, many jobs still depend on the industry, and a ban would cause more problems. But a Soviet withdrawal from the trade might sway voting on the International Whaling Commission, and make possible a moratorium on whaling, and international sanctions against countries which broke it.

The only safe way of ensuring that the whale-hunters do not pursue their quarry into extinction is to agree to stop whaling altogether until enough is known about their habits and life-cycle to make it clear what level of fishing, if any, the population can bear. Adequate commercial substitutes are now available for all whaling products. Some of the rarest kinds of whale have already been accorded complete official protection (it is a matter of debate how far this is a safeguard to the individual whale in the sights of the individual harpoon-gun), and the result has been to increase pressure on other species.

The Soviet announcement also promises other extensive measures for the protection of wildlife. This suggests that Russia may be beginning to attach more importance generally to the principle of conservation. Like the United States, it has the historical attitudes of a frontier nation, apt to squander natural resources on the assumption that there is always more space to move into. It has been politically impossible for a spontaneous conservation movement to grow up in Russia as vigorously as it has in America. The third whaling nation in the southern hemisphere, Brazil, preserves an unregenerate frontier spirit to this day, by land as well as sea.

In America's frontier era, Herman Melville claimed that his countrymen were slaughtering not less than 13,000 sperm whale alone each year—a figure only slightly smaller than today's world quota for all species. Fears of overfishing were already being expressed in 1851, but Melville, comparing the "humped herds of whales with the humped herds of buffalo" which had disappeared in one lifetime in his own country, was nevertheless confident that the whale would be "immortal in his species". If the oceans swallowed up the land in a second flood, he prophesied that the whale would still swim triumphantly over "the site of the Tuileries and Windsor Castle, and the Kremlin". The whale's chance of being there to do so depends on decisions being made today in the Kremlin, and in Tokyo.

STAMPING ON THE BLACK PRESS

The South African government's latest sortie against the opposition press has succeeded in forcing the two largest-selling newspapers for blacks to close down. The government's cynical behaviour has been shameful even by its own standards of injustice. The consequences may be significant.

Its conduct cannot be other than counter-productive. The government has been patiently attempting, over a number of years, to win over some of the country's critics overseas by relaxing, little by little, some of the more obvious injustices and absurdities of the apartheid system. It has toned down "petty" apartheid, increased the possibility of playing multi-racial sport (though not nearly as much as some apologists claim) and granted, in certain respects, a measure of equality between the races where none existed before. None of this greatly mitigates the fundamental evil of the system, but such tentative steps, supported by encouraging noises from the Prime Minister Mr Botha and some of his ministers, gave some cause for hope. The action against the black press will do much to destroy any feelings of optimism about the future of the country. It was, in terms of foreign relations, an extraordinarily inept thing to do, even for a government not known for its delicacy of diplomacy. Its claim that South Africa has, unlike most African states, a more or less free press looks more threadbare now than it has ever done before.

The main impact, however, will be on the internal politics of the country. South Africa's blacks, now permanently deprived of their two principal avenues of news and comment on affairs affecting them, will be further alienated. The government's move is bound to convert more moderates to militancy, and to make any peaceful solution to the country's problems even more difficult to achieve. It must not be thought that other papers could take the place of the two that are closing. As it is, *The Post* and the *Sunday Post* were more cautious and less openly critical than their predecessor *The World*. Any successors would have to be even more bland and obeisant. If they were not, they too would face the banning order.

But the closures carry a clear message for South Africa's white opposition newspapers as well. For many years the government, through a host of laws coupled with extra-legal pressures, has been steadily whittling down the effective freedom of the South African press. Now, it has made it clear that it might be prepared to use its ultimate sanction with less reluctance. What has happened to these two black papers cannot make the *Rand Daily Mail* rest easily.

Historical heirlooms

From Mr Denis Mahon, FBA

Sir, Commander L. M. M. Saunders Watson (January 15), writing as deputy chairman of the Historic Houses Association, is of course correct in implying that the administration of the statutory provisions for conditional exemption from capital transfer tax for works of art, museum objects, libraries and archives does not present problems for owners of houses open to the public. In addition no difficulties arise in the case of those relatively few owners who lend their treasures for prolonged periods to public museums.

But in the case of owners, perhaps even with only two or three exemptable objects, who live in flats or houses not suitable for public access, the administration of the statutory provisions by the Capital Taxes Office is in effect contrary to the spirit of the legislation.

The fact is that, before permission is given for use of the existing administrative facilities for viewing by appointment, together with agreeing to lend to accredited temporary public exhibitions, the applicants for exemption are pressured by the CTO to find museums willing to accept periodical long-term loans of their works of art. This is very much easier said in theory than done in practice.

The consequences of such uninformed pressures are that, first, owners are positively discouraged from claiming exemption and secondly, that the works in question find their way on to the international art market. This appears to be quite contrary to the stated government policy of preventing the dispersal abroad of our cultural inheritance.

Yours faithfully,
DENIS MAHON,
33 Cadogan Square, SW1.

Model example

From Mr John Lough

Sir, The interesting letter from Mr Jonathan Ruffle (January 15) did not mention the final outcome of the case of Monson v Madam Tussaud's in 1894 (or that the Birmingham exhibition in that year had no connection with Madame Tussaud's).

When Mr Monson, of Ardlamont fame, sued Madame Tussaud's for alleged libel because of the way his waxwork figure was exhibited, very near, though not actually in, the Chamber of Horrors, there was a question of whether he had consented to the exhibition complained of.

His action to recover damages was heard before the Lord Chief Justice and a special jury in January, 1895. The jury, having retired for a quarter of an hour, found for the plaintiff: damages one farthing.

A full report of the proceedings appeared in *The Times* of January 29, 30 and 31, 1895.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN LOUGH,
Company Secretary,
Madame Tussaud's Ltd,
Marylebone Road, NW1.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Seeking a middle way in politics

From Sir Leslie Murphy

Sir, I have been a lifelong supporter of the Labour Party. The reasons for this are very similar to those mentioned by Mr Callaghan at the recent conference at Blackpool. My father became unemployed during the depression of the thirties as a result of the closure of the plant in which he was working. I was at school at the time and his experiences made a deep impression on me.

It seemed to me then that the Labour Party had a better understanding of the consequences for the individual of policies which neglected human and spiritual values in pursuit of economic and financial goals. It was searching for a fairer and more just society.

Later on, I became private secretary to Hugh Gaitskell and this served to confirm those early formed views. His untimely death was in my view a great tragedy for the Labour Party and has had a decisive effect upon its policies and its fortunes.

We are now facing a period in which we may experience some of the problems of the thirties. Part of the cause of this lies in economic changes on the world scene from which we cannot insulate ourselves. These are the rise in energy prices, the depression in world trade and the inflationary pressures felt on a worldwide basis. But the domestic policies pursued by the present Government during the last 18 months have undoubtedly exacerbated the situation in the United Kingdom and as a result we are facing a further rise in unemployment—perhaps to three million or worse—the spread of poverty and homelessness and an increase in social tensions, particularly among the young unemployed.

In these circumstances, I would have expected to continue my support for the Labour Party. But the policies which it is now proposing seem to me just as unacceptable as those of the present Government. The National Executive of the Labour Party is dominated by the left wing and is committed to withdrawal from the EEC, unilateral disarmament and a wholesale extension of public ownership of industry. In addition, it is attempting to force the Parliamentary Labour Party to be bound by the decisions of the party conference. This would mean that the focus of power would be transferred away from Parliament. This seems to me to be a repudiation of the system of parliamentary democracy by which this country has been governed for centuries.

We are therefore faced with the necessity of finding some other alternative to the two main political parties. For I have reached the conclusion that the slide of the Labour Party to the left, which started after the death of Hugh Gaitskell, has now gone so far that the moderates have little chance of rescuing it.

What is needed is for men and women of moderate views to work out a set of policies that would appeal to the broad mass of public opinion which is dissatisfied with the extremes of both right and left. This will take some time and will not be easy. Mr Steel has given a lead with the recently issued statement of a 10-point policy. Mr Jenkins last week indicated his readiness to play his part. We now need to know whether the Labour moderates are prepared to join in or whether they will consent to be submerged by the slide to the left.

If this process can be accomplished successfully it could provide the basis for an electoral alliance between the Liberals and a new group of Labour MPs and candidates who believe in parliamentary democracy and hold moderate radical views. I consider it to be essential that, by the time of the next election, the electorate should be offered a viable alternative to Thatcherism and left-wing socialism.

The running must be made by experienced politicians, but I am sure that, if they will make the effort, there will be many like me who will be prepared to support them.

Yours faithfully,
LESLIE MURPHY,
Hedgerley,
6 Barton Common Road,
Barton-on-Sea, Hampshire.
January 20.

From Mr Roger Pincham

Sir, It is scarcely for a Liberal to elaborate upon the fine but important distinctions drawn by Susan Crosland between "democratic socialism" and "social democracy" (January 19). One can only assume that the key to the difference lies in the priority given to her three strands of "Croslandism", liberty, democracy and equality.

The pursuit of material equality is not and never has been a serious objective of Liberalism. Certainly we have campaigned for the elimination of poverty and the establishment of a decent and rising standard of living for all members of society. Extravagant prosperity in the midst of poverty, whether on a national or international scale, can only be abhorrent to the spirit of Liberalism.

If, as Tony Crosland asserted, "socialism is basically about equality", then Liberalism is basically about liberty. For all its faults, democracy remains the most reliable guarantor of liberty: hence our commitment to extend the influence of democracy, participation and responsibility to many important aspects of public and commercial life.

Likewise, the pursuit of liberty necessitates the dissolution of monopolies, whether of capital, labour or resources. Where that is not possible, monopolies must be under firm control and accountable to the public as a whole.

In essence, the pursuit of liberty is all about giving the individual the maximum opportunity to fulfil his own talents and thereby to serve the community in the most effective way. Hence, our continuing commitment to vigorous and responsible free enterprise and the encouragement of new businesses, and a greater variety of corporate forms. Without this successful wealth-producing base the national decline must continue.

A Liberal society can only be based upon the recognition of the unique and thereby equal value of each of its members but, by the same token, it would not incline towards the Marxist error of imagining that equality of value implies equality of wealth and need. Who, indeed, has the wisdom or effrontery to assess another man's needs?

I would suggest generosity and love of justice as the two principal strands supporting the primary Liberal commitment to the defence and extension of liberty. These elements, by their nature, embrace our allegiance to the principles of internationalism, voluntarism, devolution of power, ecological responsibility, co-operation, and the very thorough care of those unable to look after themselves.

I am convinced that Liberals and latter-day social democrats have sufficient in common to build a new and powerful platform in British politics, but if this is to succeed it must be based upon the honourable alliance of distinctive political philosophies rather than a murky liaison of political convenience.

David Steel's 10-point plan has been welcomed across the country as a serious initiative at a time of national crisis. If it provides evidence of the Liberal Party's willingness to build bridges, it is also indicative of our determination to make a powerful and independent contribution to the reform and recovery of this nation in the 1980s.

Yours, etc,
ROGER PINCHAM, Chairman of the Liberal Party,
1 Whitehall Place, SW1.
January 20.

Instrumental in educating the young

From Mr and Mrs Christopher Driver

Sir, Professor Peter Wishart (January 17) writes from a university music department to say that without music in the curriculum the people perish, and this makes it easy for people who know no better to discount his views on grounds of professional interest. But he is right.

Both of us belong to a generation in which comparatively few children could be taught to read music and play instruments, and think ourselves fortunate to have been among the exceptions because there were people who could see what was of enduring value, even in 1940-50, when the country had more pressing things on its mind than it does now.

Neither of us would have thought of making a living in music, even if it had been in our power; that is no more the point of musical education than religious education, in the centuries which insisted upon it, was designed to make a priest of every pupil. But without basic musical skills we would have been shut out from, and our own children would have been slower or less likely to enter, a creative world which seldom reveals its innermost secrets to listeners only.

State school pupils of the past 20 years have at last been permitted to explore this world in significant numbers, with results that will still be noticeable in 50 years' time (that is no hyperbole: most London amateur orchestras, and concert audiences, include someone whose ears and fingers were trained to the violin in Austria before the Anschluss).

If music in schools is now to be dismissed again as a luxury because politicians and administrators, local or national, are themselves ill-equipped to see the point of it, another generation will be unfairly deprived and will not forgive those responsible, if it eventually realises what it has missed.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER DRIVER,
MARGARET DRIVER,
6 Church Road, Highgate, N6.

From The Precentor and Director of Music, Eton College

Sir, The value of music as a leisure pursuit for performers and listeners alike is abundantly clear and the level of excellence and international recognition achieved by British professional and amateur musicians is widely appreciated. It is sad indeed that Mr Kinnear's obsession with cost (January 2) not only leads him to quite inaccurate conclusions on the economic front, but reveals complete misapprehension concerning the value of music in education.

Far from abandoning instrumental tuition in their schools, Somerset would be better advised to make it a core subject in the primary school curriculum and for the early stages of secondary education as advocated by Mr Watson (January 12). There is no subject that cultivates intellectual, aesthetic, and physical response, concentration, and coordination to the same degree that is regularly achieved while learning an instrument or singing.

Apart from the development of the particular skill, the combination of timing, accuracy, judgment, and taste that is required as a pupil progresses can only improve performance in other subjects if instrumental lessons are followed with a sense of purpose. To deny this educational opportunity to children is shortsighted in the extreme.

Many have paid tribute to the specialist music schools and the education they provide. It should be our aim to discover latent talent in all children, not only in those who have the good fortune to be able, or choose, to pay the extra fees involved. More important than the discovery of a very gifted child, however, is the contribution that musical expertise may make to identifying other unsuspected talents in the average pupil; musical ability tends to show itself earlier than many academic talents and can prove the key to progress in other areas. We can be thankful that many education authorities fully recognize the immense value for money that instrumental tuition provides in their systems.

Yours faithfully,
GRAHAM SMALLBONE,
Ballards,
Keate's Lane,
Eton College,
Windsor,
Berkshire.
January 16.

The spirit of rugby

From Mr D. G. Ives

Sir, Mr K. Spence writes (January 15) that the game of rugby has lost its *joie de vivre* and goes on to give several reasons why this is so, and as a society referee and a schoolboy coach I must agree with him.

Too many club and international games are played in a negative spirit with the emphasis apparently more on defence than attack, and back play initiative seems to be stifled in favour of the set-piece move; conning the referee has become commonplace. Unfortunately this attitude is creeping into the schoolboy game and it is not unknown for school coaches to teach dubious or even illegal and dangerous practices, and to comment unfavourably on referees.

Shouts from the touch line exhorting players to "kill him", "hit him", "if they do that, you know what to do", "get him onside", "don't let them come offside" (the last two indirectly addressed to the referee), all contribute to an unhealthy attitude to the game.

A greater emphasis on fitness through regular training sessions has improved the standard of play at all levels, but we are in danger of losing sight of the fact that it is a game, and one that should be enjoyed by all 31 participants.

Yours faithfully,
D. G. IVES, Headmaster,
Holmewood House,
Langton Green,
Tunbridge Wells,
Kent.
January 16.

Caveat vendor

From Sir James Goldsmith

Sir, *The Times* reported, in a somewhat idiosyncratic way, the recent appeal by Mr Michael Gillard heard before Lord Denning, Lord Justice Templeman and Lord Justice Dunn. Mr Michael Gillard, who is a journalist employed by Granada TV and *Private Eye*, was appealing against a unanimous decision by a jury that I was justified in describing him as a blackmailer.

As is normal, the case in the Court of Appeal was opened by Mr Gillard's counsel, Mr M. Wright, QC. While Mr Gillard's case was being presented significant publicity appeared in your newspaper. My case was then put to their lordships by Lord Rawlinson, QC. When my case was presented, a sudden hush descended on your columns and those of most other newspapers.

However, I was particularly amused by this morning's paper (January 20) which reported the unanimous decision by the three learned judges to dismiss Mr Gillard's appeal. Your report appeared in two paragraphs at the bottom on page 2 under the somewhat equivocal title, "Goldsmith case appeal fails". Do you believe that this title would indicate to the average reader that I had won or lost the case?

You really must do better, my dear Sir, otherwise I might be forced, after all, to buy *The Times*.

Yours sincerely,
JAMES GOLDSMITH,
65-68 Leadenhall Street, EC3.

In the slightly later light

From Mr Terence Harris

Sir, I believe that Mrs Margaret Leigh (January 6) is right and Mr Bernard Kaplan (January 13) is wrong. Mr Kaplan is surely making the common error of equating New York with the United States. In my experience, covering many parts of the United States outside New York, businesses do start at 8 o'clock. In my own company a high proportion of key executives regularly arrive between 7 and 7.30 am and work late.

However, the key issue is not the starting time of business. Visitors from this country to the United States will have noticed the extremely poor coverage of news on the radio. Anyone wishing to keep up with world affairs has little option but to tune in to the early television news programmes and somehow they manage to do this whilst preparing themselves for work. Therefore the situations in the United States and Britain are not comparable.

In Britain we have an excellent news service on the radio and I would be surprised if busy executives would bother with early morning television.

Yours faithfully,
T. J. HARRIS,
Vice-President, European Operations,
Centronics,
Petersham House,
Harrington Road, SW7.
January 14.

Citizenship implications

From Mr Ernest Pendrous

Sir, In your leading article today ("Three classes of citizen", January 15) you say: ". . . the mere possibility that a few million people in the overseas dependencies might sometime wish to take up their right of entry would be liable to feed irrational fears."

Why is it not valid seemingly that the possibility of such immigration (no matter how remote) can be a matter for rational concern?

Yours faithfully,
ERNEST PENDROUS,
2 Twyford Court,
Twyford Avenue, W3.
January 15.

University election

From Professor Anthony Mortimer

Sir, What is a university chancellor? A public Somebody who honours official ceremonies with his or her presence? If so, there is no good reason why Princess Anne should not serve as well as any other equestrian figure, but it hardly seems a matter worth voting on. Or is the Chancellor someone, not necessarily academic, who has the intellectual competence and prestige to speak to and for the university when the need arises? The Princess does not fit the bill. Nor does Mr Jones. Mr Mandela, even if he were in a position to speak, has other and more pressing concerns.

Thus, at a time when British universities need the most articulate friends they can get, London has obviously let the side down. If the Cabinet reshuffle had taken place earlier, one might have appealed to Mr St John-Stevas. As it is, I can only hope that the electors will demonstrate their sanity by mass abstention.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY MORTIMER,
University of Fribourg,
CH-1700 Fribourg,
Switzerland.
January 14.

Coverage of Sutcliffe case

From Mr Ludovic Kennedy

Sir, I very much doubt whether the reports of the Sutcliffe case that have appeared in the press and television will in any way influence any jury that may in the future be empanelled to hear a case against him. Juries are well able to differentiate between what they hear in court and what they may have heard or read in the media months beforehand.

What is often more prejudicial to an accused's case is the practice in English (though not Scottish) courts of prosecuting counsel opening his case by telling the jury what he hopes to prove against the accused, and what in the event he sometimes fails to prove.

A good example of this occurred in the Stephen Ward trial. In his opening speech Mr Griffith-Jones made a number of highly damaging allegations against Ward, few of which were supported by subsequent evidence. That the jury at the end of the day found Ward guilty on two counts of living off the immoral earnings of Christine Keeler and Mandy Rice-Davies can only be explained, in my view, by Mr Griffith-Jones having so blackened Ward's character that the jury were unable to distinguish between what he said he would prove and what he did prove.

Yours, etc,
LUDOVIC KENNEDY,
3 Upper Dean Terrace
Edinburgh 4.
January 16.

Hot under collar

From Mrs M. Barrow

Sir, I have read with interest the protracted correspondence in your columns concerning stiff white collars and think my observations may be of some interest.

With the advent of Chinese restaurants and later "takeaways", many, if not all, Chinese laundries have now disappeared and with them many of the handed-down skills of laundering.

As the daughter of a laundry owner I can well recall the many processes to which stiff collars were subjected before being passed as ready. After washing and starching, the collars were smoothed out individually by hand and threaded on to wires for drying. They were then packed between damp sheets and weighted down.

When they had reached the right degree of dampness, they were then pressed by a hand-operated roller until they had acquired a high gloss and smoothness. Lastly, the *pièce de résistance*, when the collars were curled into a circular shape with a flat iron; a skill I was never able to master, although I tried on many occasions.

I trust this throws some light on the subject.

Yours faithfully,
M. BARROW,
Bryn Hyfryd,
Marford Hill,
Marford,
Wrexham,
Clwyd.
January 16.

Fate of listed buildings

From the Secretary of the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England)

Sir, Hardly has the dust settled from the unauthorized stripping of the library interior at Wadham College (London Diary, January 8), than we learn (report, January 14) that the unique mid-seventeenth-century almshouses at Denton in Lincolnshire have also been clandestinely demolished.

This commission is charged with the duty of recording historic buildings. All who wish to demolish or alter buildings which have been "listed" are legally bound to give us the opportunity to record them first (section 55, Town and Country Planning Act, 1971). This is part of the legal protection given to buildings by designating them as being of "listed" status.

It is clear, however, that some people think that they can treat this law with contempt, and so I would like to appeal to those others who may wish to demolish a "listed" building, but at the same time believe in observing the law, to contact us at this address before they do so. They will then have the double satisfaction of providing for posterity a better record of our heritage than would otherwise be available and of acting as good citizens.

Yours faithfully,
P. J. FOWLER,
Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England),
Fortress House,
23 Savile Row, W1.

Voice from the past

From Sir John Barran

Sir, The most noticeable feature of RSM Brittain's voice was its penetrating quality, which he achieved by making it very high, rather than a roar. Its effectiveness was demonstrated on parade at Mons one day in the 1950s when a small aeroplane buzzed noisily over the barrack square whilst we were at drill below.

Inflating his lungs to their fullest extent he cried: "Get out of my sky!"—and the aeroplane obligingly altered course.

What a man.

Yours most impressed,
JOHN BARRAN,
17 St Leonard's Terrace, SW3.



COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM
January 20: The Lady Susan Hussey has succeeded Lady Abel Smith as Lady in Waiting to The Queen.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
January 20: Princess Alexandra, Vice-President of the British Red Cross Society, this morning attended a Meeting of the Council at 9, Grosvenor Crescent.
In the afternoon, Her Royal Highness visited the VAD Ladies' Club at 44, Great Cumberland Place, London W1.
The Lady Mary Fitzalan-Howard was in attendance.

Princess Anne will attend the re-dedication of HMS Jersey at HM Naval Base, Rosyth, Fife, on January 29.

Princess Alexandra will visit Whittington Hospital, Highgate, London, on February 10.

The Duke and Duchess of Kent will attend the New Zealand Society's Waitangi dinner at the Royal Lancaster Hotel, London, on February 3.

A memorial service will be held for Lord St Helens at St James's Church, Piccadilly, on Wednesday, February 11, at noon.

A memorial service for Canon Peter Newell will be held in the Quire of Canterbury Cathedral at noon on Saturday, January 31.

Birthdays today

Mr Rohan Butler, 64; Sir Nicholas Cayzer, 71; Father J. S. Coventry, SJ, 66; Mr Placido Domingo, 40; Dr John Hayes, 52; Major-General A. P. W. Hope, 70; Sir George H. Middleton, 71; Rear-Admiral Sir Richard Trowbridge, 61; Professor Sir William Weipers, 77; Mr Laurence Whistler, 69.

Today's engagements

The Duke of Kent, vice-chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, visits Quantel Ltd, Newbury, Berkshire, 11.15, and Electro-Medical Supplies (Greenham), Wantage, 2.30.

Lectures: Cologne Primitives, by Alistair Smith, National Gallery, 1; Female warriors in Greek art, by Anton Powell, 11.30; Roman theatre, by Patsy Vanags, 1.15, British Museum; Marina Tsvetayeva, by Elaine Feinstein, Poetry Society, 21 Earls Court Square, London, 7.30; Slave Revolts and the fall of the Plantocracy, by Jacques Compton, Harlesden Library, Craven Park Road, London, 7; Canaletto in England, by J. G. Links, Royal Society of Arts, 8 John Adam Street, Westminster, 2.30; The Gambia of today, by Philip Weitehead, Africa Centre, 38 King Street, Westminster, 1.15; The Pre-Raphaelites 1: realism and religion, by Simon Wilson, Tate Gallery, 1; The birth of the English portrait miniature reconsidered, by Dr Roy Strong, Botany Theatre, University College, London, 5.30.

Exhibitions: Works by 10 painters from Berlin, Goethe Institute, 50 Princes Gate, South Kensington, 12-8; works by Alan Byrne and Keith West, Holsworthy Gallery, 203 New Kings Road, Hammersmith, 10-5.30; sculpture and drawings by Michael Kenny, Annely Juda Gallery, 11-12 Tottenham Mews, London, 10-6.

25 years ago

From The Times of Friday, January 20, 1956

A British improved variant of the Salk vaccine which should give a considerable measure of protection against poliomyelitis will be used to vaccinate between 250,000 and 500,000 British children between the ages of two and nine within the scope of the National Health Service in May and June this year. Announcing this at a press conference in London yesterday, Mr R. H. Turton, Minister of Health, said that the new vaccine had been subjected to stringent tests to ensure that it was safe. "While this vaccine owes its origin to the brilliant pioneering work carried out in the United States, it is not quite the same as the American vaccine", he said. "The improvement is due to the achievements of two British manufacturers, Glaxo and Messrs Burroughs Wellcome, who have been working in co-operation with the Medical Research Council. I am advised that it will be as safe as any vaccine could be. It will not guarantee that a person who is vaccinated will not in any circumstances catch poliomyelitis, but it should afford a considerable measure of protection. We believe our own vaccine to be preferable to any made in other countries and it is not proposed to import vaccine from abroad."

Latest wills

Mr John Baptist Robertson, of Comrie, Perthshire, a Lloyd's underwriter, left estate valued at £303,971 net. He left his Van Dyck picture of St Peter to the Cambridge University Catholic Association.

Other estates include (net, before tax paid):

Barron, Mr Ronald Spilsbury, of West Lavington, Wiltshire .. £286,309
Bliss, Mr John Howard, of West Wittering, West Sussex, company director .. £155,072
Burston, Mr Edward, of Westminster, intestate .. £650,561
Davis, Mrs Betty Marie, of Radlett, Hertfordshire .. £157,828
Drake, Mr George, of Trentham, Staffordshire .. £147,839
Green, Mrs Joy, of Framfield, East Sussex .. £224,842
Jacka, Mr Edwin Spencer, of Helston, Cornwall .. £189,560
Mackay, Mrs Lucy Wimpenny, of Wheldrake, North Yorkshire .. £177,491
Padfield, Mrs Rosa Helen, of Rhos, Clwyd .. £214,571
Rudge, Mrs Maud Amy, of Halesowen, West Midlands .. £155,715

Forthcoming marriages

Mr R. G. L. Mayall and Miss J. W. A. C. High
The engagement is announced between Robert, son of Sir Lees and the Hon Lady Mayall, of Sturford Mead, Warminster, Wiltshire, and Jacqueline, daughter of Mr and Mrs J. W. High, of Norwich, Norfolk.

Mr S. Drake and Miss V. Sewell
The engagement is announced between Simon, son of the Rev Paul and Hon Mrs Drake, of the Vicarage, Stewkley, Buckinghamshire, and Vanessa, daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Sewell, of Oaklands, Brundall, Norwich.

Mr R. D. Bush and Miss D. N. A. Pearce
The engagement is announced between Richard Dayland, second son of Admiral Sir John and Lady Bush, of Beckstedde House, Colemore, Hampshire, and Daphne Nina Anne, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs T. A. Pearce, of Kemps, Hawkhurst, Kent.

Mr C. J. August and Miss N. D. Bucu
The engagement is announced between Chris, son of Mr and Mrs F. August, of Mellis, Suffolk, and Nimfa, second daughter of Mr and Mrs R. L. Bucu, Jr, of Quezon City, Philippines.

Mr C. C. Brooke Smith and Miss D. E. Denaro
The engagement is announced between Christopher, son of Mr and Mrs C. F. Brooke Smith, of Parham, Suffolk, and Daphne, daughter of Mr and Mrs L. F. Denaro, of Kensington, W8.

Mr A. J. Carter and Miss F. M. Wyatt
The engagement is announced between Anthony, younger son of Mr and Mrs D. G. R. Carter, of Lone Barn Cottage, Broad Oak, Sussex, and Patricia, daughter of Mr G. E. Wyatt, CMG, and Mrs Wyatt, of Holne Bridge Lodge, Ashburton, Devon.

Mr A. S. Dalton and Dr J. M. Sequeira
The engagement is announced between Andrew Dalton, of 4 Chateau Hatori, 4-2-25, Akasaka, Minato-ku, Tokyo, son of the late Mr and Mrs Frederick Dalton, and Jane, daughter of Dr and Mrs Peter Sequeira, of Wilmslow, Cheshire.

Mr N. B. Drewek and Miss J. M. Postgate
The engagement is announced between Nigel, son of Mr and Mrs Bernard Drewek, of Saltdean, Sussex, and Joanna, youngest daughter of Professor John Postgate, FRS, and Mrs Postgate, of Lewes, Sussex.

Mr A. Foster and Miss M.-J. Hicks
The engagement is announced between Andrew, elder son of Mr Graham Foster, FRCOG, and Mrs Foster, of Kalithea, Cecil Road, Weston-super-Mare, and Mary-Jane, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Phillip Hicks, of Winston House, Norman Avenue, Abingdon.

Mr J. E. Gaffney and Miss F. C. A. Sparey
The engagement is announced between John, son of Mr and Mrs L. H. Gaffney, of Bury, Greater Manchester, and Fiona, daughter of Mr and Mrs J. R. Sparey, of Oxshott, Surrey.

Mr E. A. Hoare and Miss S. E. Dobree
The engagement is announced between Edward, son of Mr and Mrs H. F. R. Hoare, of Gasper House, Stourton, Wiltshire, and Susan, daughter of Brigadier and Mrs T. S. Dobree, of Hindon, Wiltshire.

Mr P. M. J. Hogg and Miss V. Holman
The engagement is announced between Piers Michael James, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Michael Hogg, of 19 Woodlands Road, Barnes, London, and Vivien, younger daughter of Dr and Mrs Philip Holman, of 3 Atwood Avenue, Kew.

Mr G. N. Humphry-Baker and Miss H. F. S. Wright
The engagement is announced between Guy, son of Commander and Mrs J. N. Humphry-Baker, of Esher, Surrey, and Hilary, twin daughter of Mr and Mrs A. K. Wright, April Cottage, Honiton, Devon, formerly of Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire.

Mr M. Horsfall and Mlle O. Pineau
The engagement is announced between Michael, son of Mr and Mrs R. D. Horsfall, of Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, and Odile, daughter of M and Mme F. Pineau, of Vallée de Sauvebonne, Hyères, Provence.

Mr P. O. Lawson and Miss A. T. Wrangham
The engagement is announced between Peter, elder son of Mr A. O. Lawson, of Queniborough, Leicester, and of the late Mrs S. I. Lawson, and Anne, younger daughter of Mr G. E. Wrangham, CBE, of Catterick, Yorkshire, and of Mrs T. J. Wrangham, of Clanfield, Oxfordshire.

Mr R. G. Raw and Miss F. M. de L. Spence
The engagement is announced between Rodney, younger son of Mr S. C. Raw, FRCS, and Mrs Raw, of Farnham, Surrey, and Fiona, daughter of Mr and Mrs J. M. Spence, The Rookery Farm, Frensham, Surrey.

Dr J. A. Serpell and Miss J. A. Feaver
The engagement is announced between James, son of Mr and Mrs Christopher Serpell, of Hampstead, NW3, and Julie, daughter of Mr and Mrs D. A. Feaver, of Hempstead, Essex.

Mr J. B. Steel and Miss R. S. Fraser
The engagement is announced between John, son of Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs J. E. Steel, of 45 Eaton Mews South, London, SW1, and Rebecca, daughter of the late Dr R. C. Fraser and Mrs Fraser, of The Manor House, Yarm, Yorkshire.

Marriage

Mr J. H. L. Colchester and Miss I. J. R. Birley
The marriage took place on Saturday, January 17, in Sherborne Abbey, Dorset, between Mr Jonathan Halsey Luke Colchester, youngest son of the Rev Halsey and Mrs Colchester, of Bollington, Cheshire, and Miss India Jane Romaine Birley, daughter of Mr Mark Birley and Lady Annabel Goldsmith. Canon F. P. P. Goddard and the bridegroom's father officiated. The Hon Piers Gibson was best man.
A reception was held at Maperton House, Somerset.

Luncheons

British Council
Mr R. E. Cavaliero, assistant director-general of the British Council, was host at a luncheon held yesterday at the Café Royal in honour of Senatrice Franca Falcucci, Under-Secretary of State for Education, Italy.

Company of Master Mariners
The Master, Captain P. A. Ogden, RNR, presided at a luncheon given by the Company of Master Mariners on board HQS Ship Wellington, Victoria Embankment, yesterday. Mr D. R. Donaldson, chairman of the Baltic Exchange, was the principal guest. Other guests included: Sir Charles Harris, Rear-Admiral P. G. Baylis, Mr Alan Haselhurst, MP, Mr L. Cowling and Dr M. M. Warner.

Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors
Mr J. N. C. James, president, and members of the general council of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors were hosts at a luncheon held at 12 Great George Street yesterday. The guests were: Lord Lever of Manchester, Professor Denys Hinton, Mr J. D. Hamilton and Mr Leonard Williams.

Dinners

Old Rugbeian Society
The President of the Old Rugbeian Society, Mr Laurence Viney, and members of the OR committee entertained old Rugbeian bishops attending the Bishops' Conference at dinner last night at the Garrick Club. Among those present were:
The Bishops of Bath and Wells, Birmingham, Burnley, Malmesbury, Oxford and Portsmouth; Mr A. J. V. Arthur, Mr R. H. W. Bullock, Mr P. H. B. Lyon, the Rev R. L. Roberts, Mr H. T. H. Snowden and Mr J. S. Woodhouse.

Royal Society of Medicine
Sir John Stallworthy, president, presided at a dinner for members of council of the Royal Society of Medicine held last night at 1 Wimpole Street. The guest speaker was Miss Daphne Park, and other guests included:
Sir John and Lady Dacie, Lord and Lady Porritt, Lord and Lady Richardson, Lord and Lady Smith and Sir Gordon and Lady Wolstenholme.

Memorial service

Canon N. Motley
The Lord Mayor accompanied by Mr Sheriff David Inglefield, attended a service of thanksgiving for the life of Canon Norman Motley held yesterday at St Michael's Cornhill. The Rev John Scott officiated. The Bishop of London read the lesson and pronounced the blessing and Bishop George Appleton gave an address. The Archdeacon of London was robed and in the sanctuary. Others present included:
Mr and Dr Richard Marshall (son-in-law and daughter), Mr and Mrs Reginald Motley (brother and sister-in-law), [illegible] Alderman Sir Edward and Lady Howard, [illegible] Sir John and Lady Thomson, [illegible] Commander W. R. Symon (representing the Master Mariners' Company), Mr L. J. D. Halcrow (Representing the Musicians Company), Mr George Nissen (deputy chairman, representing the Chairman of the Stock Exchange), Mr and Mrs W. R. Winterton, Air Vice Marshal C. M. Clementi, Miss Joan Sadler (Principal of Cheltenham Ladies College), the Archdeacon of Hackney (representing Sion College), Mr T. H. Bevan (deputy chairman, representing the Chairman of Barclays Bank), Mr Leonard Neary (Eagle Star Insurance), Mr Michael Hamilton (Parker Garrett and Company), Mr R. J. Petherbridge (Union Discount Company of London), Mr Timothy Jones (Akroyd and Smithers), Mr A. E. Lycett (Help the Aged), Mr K. Prideaux-Brune and the Rev John Hull (Toc H).
The Rev S. V. Evans, Dr George Thalben-Ball, Canon J. Robinson, Canon Gerald Hudson, the Rev Basil Watson, the Rev Martin Price, the Rev Peter Smith (Churches Council for Health and Healing), the Rev Alan Cook, the Rev F. P. Coleman, the Rev Harold Johnson, the Rev Arthur Brown, the Rev B. A. C. Kirk-Duncan, the Rev G. A. Reddington, the Rev G. C. Harding, the Rev Peter Speck, Deaconess G. Evans, the Rev Hereward Cooke, Dr Gordon Huelin, Mr Richard Popplewell, Mr Philip Chalk, Mr Jack Woodhead, Dr Cecil Symons, Brigadier R. H. S. Popham, Miss Gladys Parr, Mr Julian Gibbs and Mr Herbert Darke.



Part of the Michelangelo drawing discovered in Switzerland.

Michelangelo sketches are discovered

By Huon Mallalieu

A large and important drawing by Michelangelo which was unknown to scholars has recently been brought to light in Switzerland. It is in the collection of books, manuscripts, early papyri, works of art and drawings formed by the late Dr Martin Bodmer and which is now a permanent foundation administered by the City of Geneva.

Although the Bibliotheca Bodmeriana is world famous, the drawings in the collection escaped scholarly attention until February, 1980, when Mr Noël Annesley, the head of Christie's prints and drawings department, was called in to discuss valuations and the preparation of a catalogue.

The black chalk drawing of a female and a male figure, with additional sketches of the female head and a male thigh on the reverse, which measures 45.7cm by 35.5cm, bore an old attribution to Michelangelo, and the power of the work convinced Mr Annesley that that was in fact correct.

He had it photographed and consulted Professor Michael Hirst, of the Courtauld Institute, the scholar who had previously identified a double-sided drawing, then in the Methuen collection, as being a Michelangelo study for "The Last Judgment". That was published in The Times of January 16, 1980, when it entered the British Museum collections.

Last September Professor Hirst flew to Geneva and confirmed Mr Annesley's attribution, identifying the subject as Christ and the Woman of Samaria. Michelangelo is known to have made a presentation drawing of the subject for his great friend Vittoria Colonna, and the Bodmer drawing is presumably a preparatory sketch for it, dating from about 1543.

That two such important drawings by one of the supreme masters of the Renaissance should come to light in the space of little more than 10 years is particularly encouraging.

A more detailed assessment of the Bodmer drawing by Mr Annesley and Professor Hirst will appear in a forthcoming issue of the *Burlington Magazine*.

'Flop' wins award for best new musical

By Our Theatre Reporter

The 1980 drama critics' award for the best new musical was given yesterday to Stephen Sondheim's *Sweeney Todd*, which was described by one of its stars, Sheila Hancock, who received the presentation, as "the most awarded flop in the history of the theatre".

Sweeney Todd, which won great critical acclaim both on Broadway and in London, closed in the West End last November with heavy losses after a run of four months and a half.

The annual awards selected by the leading theatre critics were formerly organized by the defunct magazine, *Plays and Players*; they have been taken over by the quarterly magazine, *Drama*.

The award for the best new play was shared by Ronald Harwood's *The Dresser*, originally staged by the Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester, Tom Kempinski's *Duet for One*, originally staged at the Bush Theatre, and Michael Frayn's *Make or Break*, first seen at the Lyric, Hammersmith, which was also pronounced best comedy of the year.

The best revival was adjudged to be the Royal Shakespeare Company's production of O'Casey's *Juno and the Paycock*, and Judi Dench, who played Juno, won the award for the best performance by an actress.

Michael Gambon, who took the title role in Brecht's *Galileo* at the National Theatre, and Tom Courtenay, in *The Dresser*, shared the award for best performance by an actor. The most promising new actor was Denis Lawson in *Pal Joey*, first presented at the Half Moon Theatre, and the award for most promising new actress was shared by Julie Walters for the title role in the RSC production of *Educating Rita* and Carol Royle in the RSC's *Hamlet*.

The award for best supporting actress was shared by Dearbhla Molloy in *Juno and the Paycock* and Yvonne Bryceland in *Othello* at the National Theatre; that for the best supporting actor was shared by Edward Petherbridge in the RSC's *Nicholas Nickleby* and David de Keyser in *Duet for One*.

Dusty Hughes, whose play, *Commitments*, was presented at the Bush, won the award for most promising new playwright, and Trevor Nunn and John Caird shared the award for directing their joint production of *Nicholas Nickleby*. William Dudley won the design award for *Hamlet* at the Royal Court.

£500,000 for opera jubilee fund

By Our Music Reporter

The Government announced yesterday that it is giving a special grant of £500,000 to the English National Opera (ENO) for its new appeal, which was launched yesterday to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the opera company.

Mr Paul Channon, the new Minister for the Arts, said in a Commons written reply that the money would enable much needed structural work to be carried out at the company's home theatre, the London Coliseum, and to provide better working conditions there for performers and other staff.

The money will not be an addition to the Government's spending on the arts; it forms part of the 1981-82 capital allocation for the Arts Council, which has already been announced. The Government is giving £2.5m to help to pay for the extension to the Royal Opera House.

Speaking at the Stock Exchange in a reception to launch the jubilee appeal, Mr Channon said he hoped the grant would encourage businessmen and others to contribute generously.

The opera company has started the appeal because the gap between its costs and the amounts it receives at the box office and from public funds is growing steadily.

It hopes to raise sufficient money to finance new productions, to refurbish the theatre (including the installation of air conditioning if enough money is available), to buy new equipment, to increase its educational activities and to boost its funds for benevolent purposes and bursaries.

The Friends of the ENO and the ENO Trustees have each given £30,000 to the appeal in support of new productions.

OBITUARY

VISCOUNT AMORY

Former Conservative Chancellor of the Exchequer



Viscount Amory, KG, PC, GCMG, TD, DL, who as Mr Heathcoat Amory was Conservative Chancellor of the Exchequer from 1958 to 1960, died yesterday at the age of 81. A man with a variety of interests which filled his life with activity, much of it entirely extra political, he was a good businessman and a noted philanthropist, rendering services to many societies, especially those concerned with the welfare of boys.

Derick Heathcoat Amory was born on December 26, 1899, a son of Sir Ian Murray Heathcoat Amory, 2nd Baronet. He was educated at Eton and Christ Church. He entered the family silk and textile business, John Heathcoat and Co, a large employer in his native Tiverton, subsequently becoming an extremely successful managing director.

Originally of Liberal sympathies he had little interest in national politics at this juncture though he took a keen, if non-partisan, interest in local government and in 1932 became a member of Devon County Council, on which he was to serve for 20 years. He was chairman of the Devon Education Committee during this period and took a keen interest in the Scouts as County Commissioner for Devon from 1930 to 1945 and as a Chief Scouts' Commissioner.

Amory had a distinguished war record. He rose to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, was in action at Salerno and served on the General Staff. Charged with the training of Paratroopers for the Arnhem operation, he insisted on going into action with the men he had trained, although he would have normally been exempted on grounds of age. He was severely wounded.

On returning from the War, Amory entered politics in circumstances typical of his whole career. The prospective Conservative candidate for Tiverton, his cousin, had been killed in action and he felt it his duty to step into the vacancy. On the Opposition back-benches between 1945 and 1951, he won a reputation for quiet diligence and unassuming ability. To most observers he seemed to be cut out for a creditable back-bench career ending in a comparatively early retirement from politics.

When in 1951 Churchill asked him to become Minister of Pensions, Amory is said to have asked whether the invitation was not in fact intended for Mr Julian Amery. Churchill's belief that the new Minister would be capable of winning the confidence of ex-servicemen in the honesty of the Government's intentions was, however, wholly justified. Amory soon recommended that his Ministry should be amalgamated with the Ministry of National Insurance, another characteristic example of lack of personal vanity.

As Minister of State at the Board of Trade for ten months in 1953, one of Amory's main preoccupations was to enlist the support of the business community in expanding exports. His genial manner and his own excellent business reputation were again powerful aids. Here, it seems, was a man whose chief service to his party and to Government would spring from his capacity to win the confidence of sections of the public disposed to distrust the executive. No critic however severe ever challenged Amory's absolute integrity.

This clearly was a pre-eminent qualification for his next post, that of Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. His task was to reconcile farmers, systematically cosseted during the war to the conditions of a freer economy, while assuring them of that minimum of security now generally conceded to be their right. These two aims were carefully balanced in the Agriculture Act of 1957. Amory also did much to promote the growth of larger farming units.

The turning point in this career of dedicated administrative usefulness came with the dramatic resignations of the three Treasury Ministers—Mr Thorneycroft, Mr Birch and Mr Powell in January, 1958, in protest against what they regarded as excessive Government expenditure. The Government's stock was low. The effects of the Suez upheaval, throughout which Amory had been widely suspected of opposing the Government's action, had not yet subsided. The three resignations seemed to many to spell the doom of the Macmillan administration and made the post of Chancellor of the Exchequer, now vacant, more than usually unenviable. Amory accepted it.

As a complete empiricist, Amory was singularly well qualified to carry out the Government's middle-of-the-road economic policy, with its carefully preserved balance between expansion and restraint and its calculated avoidance of decisions of principle. His first two Budgets were on the whole lenient, reflecting an apparent improvement in the strength of the economy and affording welcome tax reliefs. His third Budget, introduced in the conditions created by the American recession, struck a firmer note. In retrospect, economists are inclined to the view that throughout 1958 and 1959 Britain was proceeding on an optimistic estimate of her chances. Amory, however, was merely the instrument of a fiscal policy to which his colleagues were irrevocably committed.

In the event, the view, which achieved some measure of credence in 1959, that Amory's diligence and his reticent nature might lead him to 10 Downing Street, however reluctantly he might go, did not prove justified. A short and successful period of service as High Commissioner in Canada completed his public career, leaving him many years of useful activity in the fields which were his first loves, business and the care of the young.

On his retirement from politics Amory had been created a viscount and in the following year was created GCMG. His activities during his retirement were many and varied. He was Pro-Chancellor of the University of Exeter from 1966 to 1972 and became its Chancellor in 1972. He was in 1962 made a Deputy Lieutenant for Devon. He was the chairman of the Medical Research Council twice and of the Voluntary Service Overseas from 1964 to 1975. He was President of the Association of County Councils, the London Federation of Boys' Clubs and of the Exeter Cathedral Appeal. He also presided over the Royal Commission on Penal Reform. Amory succeeded his brother as 4th Baronet in 1972.

He was unmarried. The heir (to the baronetcy only) is William Heathcoat Amory, DSO.

ERIC BOON

Eric Boon, who was British lightweight boxing champion from 1938 to 1944, died on January 19 at the age of 61. Boon, who came from Chatteris in Cambridgeshire, also the home of Dave Green, was a natural fighter and ferocious puncher who threatened mayhem whenever he stepped into the ring.

He won the British lightweight title at the age of 18, on December 15, 1938 by knocking out the holder, Dave Crowley in the 13th round. As in others of his fights Boon appeared to be getting the worst of it, having sustained a damaged eye which was completely closed by the 11th round. But in the 13th he dropped Crowley with a body punch and though the champion got up, he was dispatched shortly afterwards by two rights to the jaw.

But Boon's most celebrated fight — and a classic in the annals of British boxing—was his defence against the stylish Arthur Danahar on February 23, 1939. For the first half of the fight Danahar punished Boon remorselessly with his textbook left jab and Boon's face was soon puffed and swollen. However, aggression and the sheer power of Boon's hooks eventually broke through Danahar's defences and after he had been down a number of times the referee intervened in the fourteenth to save the challenger from further punishment.

In a non title fight in July 1939, Boon knocked out Len Wickwar and later beat Crowley again but the war during which he served in the RAF, interrupted his career and he was never the same man after it. He lost his title to Ronnie James in 1944, looking nothing like the aggressive fighter he had seemed earlier, and though he attempted a comeback to the ring after the war he never regained a title. In 1947 he challenged Ernie Roderick for his British welterweight title but was outpointed over 15 rounds. In the following year he was knocked out in the 5th round by his old adversary, Danahar. Later he boxed in Canada, Australia and America.

PROFESSOR B. J. DUDLEY

J. O'C. writes:
Professor B. J. Dudley, who died, aged 49, at Epping on December 23, was a leading Nigerian political scholar, probably the foremost of the present generation.

He was born in Warri and belonged to the Itsekiri people. His first book, *Parties and Politics in Northern Nigeria* (1965), was the result of pioneering research. His second major study, *Politics and Crisis in Nigeria* (1973), was a study of the military governments that took over power in 1966. He edited *Nigerian Opinion* during 1965 to 1968 when it contributed more than any other publication to political discussion in the country. He worked solidly for peace before the outbreak of the civil war and argued for clemency for the Ibo people during and after the war. He was a member of the Mid-West delegation to Nigerian constitutional discussions in 1966 and played a key role in the decision of that delegation to support the unity of the country. He was appointed Professor of Politics at the University of Ibadan in 1971. In 1979 he took charge of the office of the Nigerian National Universities Commission in London. Shortly before his death he resigned this post to move back into academic work. His loss at a comparatively early age to scholarship and Nigerian political thinking is great.

Science report

Palaeontology: Primitive life questioned

By the staff of Nature

The hazards of searching for the origins of life on Earth are emphasized again by two teams of geologists reporting in *Nature*. Their studies have led them to cast doubt on recently described fossils of a primitive form of life preserved in rocks 3,800 million years old in Greenland.

Such an age would have made the fossils the oldest relics of life on Earth, but the latest look at the evidence suggests that they were never alive, and resulted from events occurring much later, after the formation of the rocks.

The evidence in question consisted of minute bodies, resembling cells of a form of primitive life, such as some sort of alga or bacterium. The bodies, or microfossils, as they were considered to be, were found in samples of rocks formed 3,800 million years ago at Isua, in Greenland.

Presumably having been preserved at that time, the microfossils were assumed to be as old as the rocks, and they were given the biological name *Isuasphaera isua*. Their identity as representatives of an early form of life was supported by subsequent chemical analysis, which revealed features of the rocks suggesting the presence of hydrocarbon compounds that would have been associated with living organisms.

Taking a new look at the evidence, Dr D. Bridgewater and colleagues, working in Denmark and the United States, have studied identical samples of the rocks. Their microscopic examination of the size, shape and structure of the microfossils suggests that they are not the remains of former life, but of drops of fluid that formed in the rocks some considerable time after they were originally laid down, perhaps even very recently.

Dr Bridgewater and colleagues point out that the history of geological changes in the rocks, involving very high temperatures (up to 500°-600°C), makes it very unlikely that microfossils would have been preserved. Although they cannot absolutely rule out such preservation, they are confident that complex hydrocarbons could not have been expected to remain intact through such events.

The second team, consisting of Dr S. Nagy and colleagues, working at the University of Arizona in Tucson, has carried out laboratory experiments confirming that such chemical compounds would not have survived high temperatures of that sort. Instead, they would have been broken down very quickly to their simpler chemical constituents. Dr Nagy and colleagues believe it more likely that the chemical signs of life that can now be extracted from the rocks seeped into them from encrusting lichens a few tens of thousands of years ago.

No doubt argument will continue about the rocks at Isua, which have the special fascination of being the oldest known rocks on Earth. But for the time being the best evidence of the most primitive life comes from younger rocks, such as the 3,500-year-old Pilbara Block, in Western Australia. That has yielded good finds of stromatolites, which are considered to be mats of alga-like structures.

Source: *Nature*, January 1-8, 1981 (vol 298, pages 11, 51 and 52).
© Nature-Times News Service, 1981.

TV channel to be aimed at 'choosy' people

By Kenneth Gosling

More details of the way programmes are to be presented on the fourth television channel were given yesterday by Mr Jeremy Isaacs, the channel's chief executive. He said weekend programmes would be aimed at people who were "choosy" and not at one mass audience of the kind that had dominated most of the work done in scheduling for British television.

"I shall be trying on a Saturday night to provide a choice of intellectually stimulating programmes and programmes for people not all that entertained by what they see at the moment", he said.

Asked if there would be a fixed place for news bulletins, Mr Isaacs said: "I do not want to see any log laid across the schedule that will prevent my running films or concerts or debates about nuclear disarmament at nine o'clock."

There was no point, he told members of the Broadcasting Press Guild, in providing a fourth channel unless it led to change and some kind of betterment. That could not be done without some risks.

Latest appointments

Latest appointments include:
Mr Maurice Buck to be Chief Constable of Northamptonshire in succession to Mr Frederick Cutting, who retired last year.
Mr R. A. H. Lloyd, vice-chairman of Shropshire County Council, to be a member of the board of the Telford Development Corporation for four years.
Mr John Lee, MP for Nelson and Colne, to be parliamentary private secretary to Mr Kenneth Baker, Minister of State for Industry.

Privy Councillors

Sir Julius Chan, Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea, Mr Allan Louisy, Prime Minister of Saint Lucia, and Mr Robert Milton Cato, Prime Minister of St Vincent and the Grenadines, have been appointed members of the Privy Council.

Reporter of year award for 'Sunday Times' journalist

Mr Phillip Knightley, a journalist on *The Sunday Times*, was named reporter of the year yesterday for his investigation into the affairs of the Vestey shipping and meat companies. He spent seven months on the story, which also disclosed that the Dewhurst chain of butchers paid £10 tax on profits of £2,300,000.

Mr Knightley won his accolade from the television programme, *What the papers say*, at its annual awards luncheon in London. It was hosted by Granada Television, which produces the show.

The award went to Mr Knightley for unravelling a complex tale involving not only butchers' shops but also a far flung array of investment trusts.

"None of it would have meant anything but for dogged hard work over a period of seven months by a single journalist determined not to allow truth to become the casualty of our tax laws", the programme said.

Mr Andrew Whitley, of the *Financial Times*, was named foreign correspondent of the year for his reports from Iran. The programme said the toughest of all jobs abroad was that of the resident correspondent.

His award was in recognition of "a consistent record in interpreting one country to another and for his solid and never superficial style of reporting".

Mr Peregrine Worsthorne, who has been with *The Sunday Telegraph* for 20 years, was named columnist of the year for "the independence of his mind, for the freshness of his writing and for the sheer consistency of his form".

Cartoonist of the year was Posy Simmonds for her regular Monday feature in *The Guardian*. The Gerald Barry award, for distinguished services to journalism, went to Mr James Cameron, the reporter and broadcaster.

The programme decided not to make an award for the newspaper of the year.

The awards were presented by Mr Norman St John-Stevas, former Leader of the Commons.

"I would like to thank you for asking me to be present and for continuing the invitation after my little local difficulty", he said. "You should always treat former royalty rather more grandly than royalty. They need it.

"All I want to say about my future, for anyone who wants to know, is that I want to return to the back benches of the Conservative Party in the House of Commons and loyally support the Prime Minister, Mrs Thatcher, and the Conservative Government, which is the duty I was elected to do."

Told he was held in affection by the press, he said he reciprocated that. "I have never been let down by a journalist, well, hardly ever, anyway."

No journalist, he said, should be obliged to disclose his sources of information and he urged editors to ensure that that right was extended and recognized by law.

Science council gets £173m

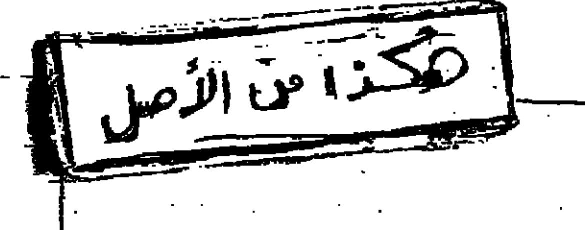
The distribution of the science budget for 1981-82, totalling £343m, was announced in the Commons yesterday by Mr Mark Carlisle, Secretary of State for Education and Science.

The Science Research Council gets £173m; the Medical Research Council £73m; the National Environment Research Council £39m; the Agricultural Research Council £31m; the Social Science Research Council £16m; the British Museum £6m and the Royal Society £3m (all rounded figures).

The figure for the Medical Research Council includes £14m transferred to the science budget from the health departments.

The total sum available for the science budget is fixed by the Government. Distribution is made on the basis of advice given by the Advisory Board for the Research Councils, chaired by Sir Alec Merrison.





Fiat plans new range of trucks for UK market, Page 18

THE TIMES BUSINESS NEWS

Battle over Denmark's oil industry, page 19

Stock markets
FT Ind 455.6 up 5.0 pts
FT Gilts 68.53 unchanged

Sterling
$2.4195 up 125 points
Index 80.2 up 0.1

Dollar
Index 85.8 down 0.1
DM 2.0060 down 15 pts

Gold
$563.50 down $4

Money
3 month sterling 14¼-14⅛
3 month Euro-$ 18⅜-18⅛
6 month Euro-$ 17⅞-17⅝

IN BRIEF

Exchange delay on current cost accounts

The Stock Exchange Council voted yesterday to postpone its requirement that listed companies should produce current cost accounts (CCA) alongside conventional historic figures.

Originally the Stock Exchange had ruled that companies should produce current cost figures at both the half-year and full-year stage starting this year.

Because of objections, and the Inland Revenue's decision not to base its stock relief proposals on CCA figures, the council shelved its plans for producing interim CCA figures for a year last November.

Uncertainties over CCA have led the Stock Exchange to put off a decision on full year CCA figures for 12 months.

Trident profits up

Trident Television, the contractor which the Independent Broadcasting Authority has ordered to cede control of Yorkshire Television and Tyne-Tees, raised its turnover from £64.45m to £90m and pretax profits from £7.51m to £9.13m in the year to last September. The gross dividend rises from 4.96p to 5.72p a share.

Financial Editor, page 19

Refinery talks

Talks were held in London yesterday between senior management of Tate and Lyle and representatives of the shop floor action committee at their Love Lane refinery in Liverpool, amid growing speculation that the plant could be facing closure with the loss of 1,500 jobs.

Dumping appeal

Asahi Chemical Co. has appealed against a United States International Trade Commission ruling that it "dumped" its synthetic fibres in the American market, a company official said in Tokyo.

Continuing decline

Sales by builders' merchants during November were down by almost 24 per cent on the same month in 1979. Monthly sales have been dropping since last February.

Itel bankruptcy

In the San Francisco bankruptcy court, Judge Lloyd King has appointed a creditors' committee for Itel Corporation and set a meeting of creditors for February 24.

Swedish bank rate up

Sweden today raises its bank rate by two points to 12 per cent. The last change was on January 18 last year, when the rate went up by one point.

Quango abolished

Sir Keith Joseph, the Industry Secretary announced the abolition of the Waste Management Advisory Council, established six years ago.

Wall Street down

The Dow Jones industrial average closed at 950.68, down 20.31 on Wall Street yesterday. Some experts suggested that the Presidential "post-inauguration blues" and a let-down after the hostages flew out of Iran were responsible for the drop.

Arguments over funding put EEC steel industry quotas at risk

By Peter Hill
Industrial Editor

Disagreements have emerged among EEC governments over the funding of social payments to steelworkers made redundant as a result of restructuring of the industry.

The arguments could lead to further problems over measures introduced by the EEC Commission to stabilize the industry through a system of production quotas and controls on steel imports.

Last year, amid deepening crisis in the European steel industry and the failure of the main steel producers to agree on voluntary production curbs aimed at reducing over production and lifting prices, the Commission took the unprecedented step of invoking Article 58 of the Treaty of Paris which provides for the Commission to make mandatory production cuts. Failure to observe such cuts would expose companies to heavy fines.

West German industry, strongly supported by the Bonn Government, opposed the introduction of mandatory production quotas, although eventually the Germans reluctantly agreed to accept the emergency measures which are fixed to run to the end of June.

But the amount of funds paid into the budget of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC), which is geared to a levy on production, has fallen short of the calls made on the budget for readaptation payments to be made to redundant steelworkers.

The British and French steel industries have been the major claimants for readaptation benefits—£58m has so far been paid out to United Kingdom steelworkers in the form of income support benefits.

As part of the overall package incorporated in the "manifest crisis" measures, the EEC proposed further assistance from the ECSC towards the cost of helping steelworkers affected by contraction of the industry. This aid was designed to cover payments for early retirements, and short time working.

The Commission attempted to secure the additional finance by a transfer from the general EEC budget to the ECSC budget, and the United Kingdom has already lodged a claim for £85m as a Community contribution.

Objections have been raised to increasing the levy on European coal and steel producers as a means of raising the additional cash, but the British Government has so far maintained that the shortfall should be made up by a direct contribution from each of the member states to the ECSC budget rather than a transfer from the EEC budget.

Disagreements have persisted both on the principle of the proposals and on their financing. The West German Government has consistently maintained that Commission intervention should be kept to a minimum, and that other Community steelmakers have failed to act sufficiently quickly to blems with restructuring problems.

West Germany, which accounts for more than 30 per cent of Community crude steel production, has insisted that the Commission produce a progress report on restructuring of the industry throughout the Community. That study will be considered by government officials from all the member states at a meeting in Brussels later this week, as a preliminary to further discussions of the social funding and steel industry problems at next month's meeting of the Council of Ministers.

But underlying the arguments over funding is the anxiety that the Commission may find it impossible to secure the objective of the "manifest crisis" plan by the end of June.

Within the steel industry in the United Kingdom, there is a growing feeling that the measures will have to be extended for a further period, although Viscount Etienne Davignon, Industry Commissioner, and member Governments have been hopeful that the industry could return to voluntary cutbacks by then.

Maintenance of a strict code on production quotas and their enforcement forms a significant assumption of the British Steel Corporation's survival plan now before the Government, which is based on an improvement in market conditions, improved prices, a rolling-back of the share of the United Kingdom market held by foreign steel, and an increased level of competitively-priced exports.

U S bid for lossmaking Inveresk paper group

By Peter Wilson-Smith

Georgia-Pacific Corporation, the United States forest products group, has made an agreed 35p a share bid for Inveresk Group. The bid values Inveresk's ordinary share capital at £7.1m.

Inveresk, the loss-making paper, packaging and stationery group, announced last week talks were under way and might lead to an offer. Since then its shares have risen from 24½p to as high as 36p, although they closed 1½p lower at 33½p yesterday.

Georgia-Pacific is offering Inveresk shareholders either cash, Georgia-Pacific common stock or a mixture of both. It is also offering 60p in cash for the first cumulative preference shares and 15p cash for the second cumulative preference shares.

Directors of Inveresk, advised by S. G. Warburg, the merchant bankers, are recommending the offer and accepting in respect of their own 19,125 ordinary shares.

However, Mr Edward Nassar, one of Inveresk's main shareholders, with nearly 14 per cent, was reported yesterday as being unhappy with the terms.

The bid is conditional on Inveresk's losses before tax but including extraordinary items not exceeding £7m. An estimate of the losses for 1980 will be included in the formal offer document.

Inveresk made a loss of £1.6m in the first half of 1980 and passed the interim dividend. Half this loss was accounted for by write-offs and closure costs.

However, trading continued to worsen, leading to further closures and redundancies. This means that losses in the second half of 1980 will have been much greater than in the first half.

Mr Thomas Corrigan, Inveresk chairman, said there had been over 600 redundancies during 1980, bringing the group's workforce down to about 2,000.

Apart from redundancy costs, there have also been further heavy write-offs of fixed assets in the second half. Because of the recession in the paper and printing industries, Inveresk's Carrongrove mill has produced poor operating results, and the group has suffered from high interest charges on borrowings which have increased during the year.

Georgia-Pacific is based in Portland, Oregon, and had sales of $5,200m in 1979 and net income of $327m. It is capitalized at roughly $2,500m

Financial Editor, page 19

Rowe Rudd to abandon broking and widen financial services

By Ronald Pullen

Changes in stockbroking over the next few years have led Rowe Rudd, one of the City's more flamboyant firms, to seek out a new future in corporate financial services.

The three-partner firm announced yesterday that it would cease to trade as a member firm of the Stock Exchange from March 13 and would be offering "a range of corporate, financial and investment services".

Mr Tony Rudd, senior partner and well-known for his individualistic investment letters and latterly his column in *The Spectator*, explained last night that the firm's business spanned various activities. "We don't think we can be in them all at once and have chosen to abandon stockbroking."

He expected that pressures on small brokers would mount in the 1980s as foreign brokers started to compete more vigorously for business and an unfavourable outcome to the proposed referral of the Stock Exchange rule book to the Restrictive Practices Court next year could lead to the sort of commission cutting and "unbundling" of stockbroking services that had happened on Wall Street.

He denied that it was purely financial pressures that had forced the decision on the firm, but it was a blow to Rowe Rudd when its three-man oil team defected to Fiske & Co two years ago.

Rowe Rudd has been a member of the Stock Exchange since 1969. The firm has 35-40 full-time employees, as well as several who work for it on commission. Around half the staff will be offered jobs in the revamped company.

As with other brokers, Rowe Rudd has been steadily encroaching into the corporate finance sphere. It also has Middle East contacts which Mr Tony Rudd hopes to develop.

Rowe Rudd's move is likely to increase speculation that another round of stockbroking mergers is on the way.

Rumours persist of informal talks between a number of firms as brokers generally grapple with the problem of rising costs, static commission charges for the last two years and the likelihood of a much quieter period in both gilts and equity turnover in the year ahead.

New policy urged for electronics industry

By Our Technology Editor

Britain needs an effective national industrial policy for the electronics industry which would draw on the lessons from Japan, West Germany, France and the United States, according to the reconstituted Economic Development Committee for the Electronics Industry.

At its first meeting at the National Economic Development Office yesterday, the committee discussed the present problems of the industry, the performance of its competitors, and specific proposals for action.

Sir Henry Chilver, Vice-Chancellor of Cranfield Institute of Technology and chairman of the reconstituted committee, said after the meeting yesterday that to establish an effective strategy or policy for the industry was the group's prime objective.

The committee was proposing as a specific scheme for government backing a collaborative public sector and private sector demonstration and evaluation project involving a comprehensive installation of advanced communication services in a particular community.

Sir Henry said that the United Kingdom electronics market had doubled, in real terms, over the past ten years. Output, also, had almost doubled, and this had been achieved with a constant workforce. Import penetration had increased from 20 per cent to 60 per cent, and this needed to be watched carefully.

Within the National Economic Development Office, the emphasis in electronics in recent years has been on the detailed work of the NEDO sector working parties, three of which (plus a recently formed special committee) are relevant to the electronics industry. These are the sector working parties covering computers, electronic capital equipment and electronic consumer goods; and the information technology committee.

Now, by contrast, Sir Henry's committee will aim to examine the strengths and weaknesses of the electronics industry as a whole, and to try to establish a plan of action for the medium-term future.

Though the sector working parties have been active in monitoring their respective specialized areas, the need to establish an overall policy framework has become urgent in view of the fast rate of technical change in electronics and the phenomenon of "convergence" between different branches of the industry.


Sir Henry Chilver: lessons from abroad.

No single country showed the correct pattern in electronics policy for Britain to follow, Sir Henry said yesterday. But each of those examined—Japan, West Germany, France and the United States—was performing better than this country.

Mr Reagan aims for industrial revival

From Frank Vogl
United States Economics Correspondent

Washington, Jan 20

President Ronald Reagan in his inaugural speech left no doubt that he is determined to push through a big economic programme as his first domestic policy priority. A whole series of proposals will be sent to the Congress within a few weeks.

To underline the urgency of the Office of Management and Budget's task, Mr David Stockman, the Presidential economic adviser, will deliver a detailed speech to the National Press Club tomorrow.

President Reagan declared that on reforming the budget "we are going to begin to act today."

The President vowed that his first priority will be to revive American industry, get the Government to live within its means and reduce the tax burden on all Americans. He said his Administration would remove "the roadblocks that have reduced productivity".

Repeatedly he said that he would not tolerate the amassing of ever greater Federal budget deficits.

The new President takes office almost one-third the way through the present fiscal year, which is seeing a budget deficit of approximately $55,000m (£22,916m), after a deficit of $59,600m in the past year.

The Reagan Administration's economic team, headed by Mr Donald Regan, the Secretary of the Treasury, and Mr Stockman, is searching for more than $40,000m cuts in this year's public spending. At the same time it is striving to put together tax cuts amounting to over $30,000m.

The new President is not only demanding that his economic advisers quickly design measures to alter this year's fiscal picture, but that at the same time and with equal speed, they alter more fundamentally the budget plan for the 1982 fiscal year that President Carter sent to the Congress last week.

The last administration's forecasts pointed to a budget deficit in the year starting on October 1 of $27,500m on public spending outlays of $793,300m.

It is widely expected that the new White House team will propose hefty cuts this year and next in social welfare spending, particularly as it is probable that in their revised budget plans they will propose increases in defence spending.

The new economic strategy is built upon the belief that tighter fiscal policies, combined with a continuation of tight money policies, over the next two to three years will bring the present double-digit inflation down to acceptable levels, while at the same time a host of governmental measures will spur productivity and secure substantial real economic growth.

An array of tax measures are under consideration to boost productivity. It is almost certain that President Reagan will soon propose better depreciation allowances and more generous investment tax credits. Cuts in capital gains taxes may be recommended and to boost savings interest income on savings of up to $1,000 per person may be made free of tax.

Studies are to be launched to find ways of slowing the growth of welfare entitlement programmes that are at present directly linked to the consumer price index.

All new cabinet secretaries are under firm orders from the White House to reduce waste in their departments and eliminate duplicating regulations.

China banks launch credit cards

Hongkong, Jan 20.—China joined the credit card generation today by issuing its first plastic money.

The cards, known in Chinese as Prosperity Card and in English as Federal Card, are being issued by the state-owned Nanyang Commercial Bank and usage is restricted to China, Hongkong and the nearby Portuguese colony of Macao.

A bank spokesman said the credit cards were for the convenience of increasing numbers of visitors to China. Holders would be able to draw cash up to $1,000 in Chinese currency from Bank of China branches in Shanghai, Peking, Canton, Tianjin and Hangzhou. The bank has branches at airports, stations, shops and hotels.

The bank said that accounts will be settled in Hongkong and Macao in Hongkong currency. Like other Western credit cards, the new cards are accepted by shops, department stores and restaurants.

Applicants for cards are required to have an annual income of not less than about £3,300.

Chinese living in China are not eligible for the cards.—AP-Dow Jones.

Three-day week for Land-Rover at Solihull

By Clifford Webb
Midland Industrial Correspondent

Short-time working affecting so much of the car industry has reached BL's Land-Rover plant at Solihull where 1,200 workers have been put on to a three-day week, which could last for several months.

A Land-Rover spokesman said: "While car factories everywhere have been on short-time for months past, we have been able to maintain five-day working. But with 80 per cent of our production going overseas, it was inevitable that the recession would begin to bite sooner or later.

"Not all sections are affected. Production of Range Rovers and kits of parts for the 25 Land-Rover assembly plants overseas is continuing on a five-day basis. Kits account for 40 per cent of our production, so we are still doing a lot better than most car makers".

But the introduction of short-time has raised union fears that redundancies will follow in the spring. Mr Michael Hodgkinson, managing director of Land-Rover, has told shop stewards that while redundancies are not necessary at present, he cannot give a guarantee for the future. Everything would depend on demand.

Land-Rover is in the middle of a £225m investment programme designed to increase output by 75 per cent. Despite the slump, it is pressing ahead to be in a position to market aggressively when sales recover.

A new £20m assembly works will begin producing Range Rovers within the next few weeks. It will double the present capacity of 300 a week, and will be accompanied by a major advertising programme to inform motorists that for the first time since the big cross-country vehicle was launched 10 years ago it can now be bought "off the shelf".

Vauxhall vote: A meeting of 1,100 of the 4,500 AUEW members at Vauxhall's Ellesmere Port plant on Merseyside last night voted to reject "wholeheartedly" a plan for 5,900 redundancies throughout the company.

Ellesmere Port is expected to provide 2,900 of the job losses. The remainder will be at plants in Luton and Dunstable, which traditionally look to the Merseyside factory to take the lead in any stand against the company.

Mr Dave Thompson, the AEUW convener at Ellesmere Port, said he would be putting his members' views to Vauxhall chiefs tomorrow.

Mr Austin Bunch tipped to be new chairman of Electricity Council

By John Huxley and Bill Johnstone

A new chairman for the Electricity Council is expected to be named by the Government in the next few days. He will succeed Sir Francis Tombs, who announced his resignation from the £48,000-a-year post last October.

Sir Francis relinquished his appointment at the end of last year, instead of completing his term of office, which was due to run to March, 1982. He left because of the Government's decision not to reorganize the electricity supply industry in England and Wales.

Since his departure, the council has been under the direction of Mr Austin Bunch, deputy chairman. In recent weeks Mr Bunch has emerged as the most likely choice of Mr David Howell, Secretary of State for Energy, to fill the vacancy of chairman.

Other names have been canvassed, most of people already working within the electricity supply industry. They have included members of the Electricity Council who are also board chairmen.

Mr Bunch, who was made a CBE in 1978, became deputy chairman of the Electricity Council in 1976, and a year later was appointed chairman of British Electricity International, the overseas consultancy arm of the council. Earlier, he worked

Mr Austin Bunch: stand-in chairman.

Sir Francis Tombs: resigned chair.

for almost 30 years with the Southern Electricity Board.

Whoever the new chairman is, he will be heading a crucial sector, with a recent history of unhappiness and tension especially in its dealings with Parliament. Its income last year was more than £6,000m. It has net assets worth more than £7,000m and about 158,000 employees.

The Electricity Council has a largely advisory role within the supply industry, which also comprises the Central Electricity Generating Board, responsible for the bulk supply of electricity, and 12 area boards which supply power to consumers.

Sir Francis was invited to become chairman of the council on the understanding that the organizational framework of the industry would be changed by legislation, after the report of the Plowden Committee of Inquiry in January 1976.

The Labour Government failed to introduce the recommended changes supported by Sir Farncis and when the Conservatives came to power, they concluded that legislative change was unnecessary.

Among the problems requiring attention by the new chairman will be the extent of capacity cutbacks needed because of falling demand, and pricing policy.

Latest indicators set back hopes of economic upturn

By David Blake
Economics Editor

Government hopes that the economy will start to expand in the spring received a jolt from the latest set of cyclical indicators published by the Central Statistical Office yesterday. However, the indications that an upturn will not occur until later in the year were tentative and go against other indications from the cyclical indicator series.

The short term leading indicators for November dropped to 94.2, sharply lower than the figure in October. A drop in the level of car registrations was the main cause.

Traditionally, the shorter leading indicators show that the economy has reached bottom about seven months before the drop in output actually ends. If this traditional relationship holds, the latest figures suggest that output will still be falling by June.

However, in recent periods this relationship has been erratic and it could be that the shorter leading indicators are failing to pick up signs of a recovery. The index for longer leading indicators rose in November yet again, continuing the rise which started in November, 1979.

If this indicator turns out to be the correct guide to economic movements, then a trough of the recession can be expected some time in the spring. But the CSO stresses that the lags on these indicators are such that recovery could be postponed until much later in the year.

Table, page 20

PRICE CHANGES

Rises

J. Brown	3p to 61p	Letraset	5p to 96p
Crouch Grp	8p to 150p	Massey-Ferg	10p to 200p
Dowty Grp	8p to 194p	MK Electric	13p to 190p
Global Nat Res	15p to 430p	Unitech	11p to 240p
Johnson & FB	1p to 18p	J. Webb	1½p to 23p

Falls

Boustead	9p to 103p	Muirhead	6p to 76p
Guthrie Corp	15p to 660p	Peko Wallsend	25p to 440p
Hammersley	6p to 164p	Western Mining	12p to 261p
Inveresk Grp	1½p to 33½p	Weeks Petrol	15p to 410p
MIM Hldgs	9p to 191p	Vlakfontein	10p to 265p

THE POUND

	Bank buys	Bank sells
Australia $	2.13	2.05
Austria Sch	35.70	33.70
Belgium Fr	80.25	76.75
Canada $	2.94	2.86
Denmark Kr	15.40	14.70
Finland Mkk	9.78	9.33
France Fr	11.47	11.02
Germany DM	4.99	4.77
Greece Dr	127.60	120.00
Hongkong $	12.80	12.20
Ireland Pd	1.34	1.285
Italy Lira	2420.00	2310.00
Japan Yn	514.00	488.00
Netherlands Gld	5.41	5.18

	Bank buys	Bank sells
Norway Kr	13.07	12.52
Portugal Esc	135.00	127.00
South Africa Rd	2.08	1.95
Spain Pta	198.50	190.00
Sweden Kr	11.10	10.60
Switzerland Fr	4.53	4.32
USA $	2.47	2.40
Yugoslavia Dnr	85.00	80.00

Rates for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied yesterday by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

New town offers stimulating atmosphere for high technology companies

Warrington to build another 'science park'

The evocative phrase "science park" emerged again yesterday with the news that Warrington New Town is to build a second one, so successful has its first version been. The concept—to attract high-technology companies to cluster together in a campus-like atmosphere, and indeed often in proximity to a university campus—is not new, but has been slow to take root successfully in Britain.

It was a fashionable idea 10 or more years ago, when various attempts began to be made to emulate the successful science-park enterprises of the United States. Warrington's inclusion of a science park in its several separate industrial employment areas as part of the new town development is one of the few that have succeeded in this country.

Other successful ones are at Cambridge and at Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh. One which started well but faded away in its original form was at Peterlee.

Warrington's decision to build a second science park for high-technology companies is part of a continued expansion of industrial capacity in the area. Despite the recession, the town exceeded its job-creation target of 1,500 jobs in 1980, for the third consecutive year, by creating employment for 2,200 people.

The town's first science park, at Birchwood, is now almost complete. All available building land has been taken up, though there is still space available in the park's Genesis building, which provides leased communal facilities for science-based companies.

Companies on the park include British Nuclear Fuels, Data General, Digital Equipment Company, Engineering Polymers, MatEval, Tranter Owen, Carborundum and Instrumentation Laboratory (UK). In the Genesis building the tenants include LSI Computers, Varian Associates and Control Data Corporation.

Birchwood Science Park, one of four employment areas within Warrington New Town, covers 70 acres. It has attracted £27m of private investment from scientific and technological companies.

The second such venture, to be known as Birchwood Science Boulevard, will cover 30 acres on a nearby site. Mr David Binns, general manager of Warrington Development Corporation, said yesterday that negotiations were already under way with several companies who wished to take space there.

The industrial north-west of Britain may not sound as attractive as California's Silicon Valley or Massachusetts' Route 128 or any of the other university/industry complexes in the United States. But Birchwood Science Park—and indeed Warrington's new industrial areas generally—offers a fresh and stimulating environment which in many respects matches the best of American practice.

Kenneth Owen

Trade official's Soviet trip heralds change of attitude

By David Spanier

A senior official from the Department of Trade is to visit Moscow early next week, with the aim of reviving Anglo-Soviet commercial relations and preparing the way for a meeting at ministerial level in London in May.

The trip by Mr Gavin Dick, Under-Secretary for Trade, announced yesterday, is the first inter-governmental meeting on trade to take place since the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. As such, it represents a distinct change of attitude by the Foreign Office, as regards dealings with the Soviet Union.

Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, in his original announcement of restrictions taken after the Soviet invasion, stated that "the Government's view is that all trade should be pursued on a basis of mutual advantage."

The Department of Trade said yesterday that Mr. Dick was going to discuss "the basic issues", not only to encourage trade between the two countries but also to review the possibility of arranging a ministerial meeting of the joint Commission on British and Soviet Economic and Industrial Cooperation. This last has not been fixed yet but seems likely.

Trade has been languishing, it is felt, and with European competition being renewed, Britain does not want to be left behind, an official said yesterday.

The restrictions imposed after the Afghanistan invasion and which are still operative, included non-renewal of the British-Soviet credit agreement of 1975, and the EEC decision to curb grain exports.

After a year of declining sales, Iveco hopes for a change of fortune

Turbo-truck drive into UK market

Iveco, Europe's second largest heavy truck maker, which suffered estimated losses of $50m (£22m) last year, is hoping for a significant turnround in its fortunes in 1981 and aims to oust Volvo as the leading importer into the United Kingdom.

The company, like most European premium truck manufacturers, is putting on a brave face after a year which has seen a big decline in sales and a fierce price-cutting war that looks set to continue throughout the next few months.

Iveco, owned by Fiat of Italy and set up in 1974 as the first pan-European commercial vehicle company, is soon to launch a new range of turbo-charged trucks with which it hopes to carve a greater slice of a diminishing market. In doing so, it joins Leyland Vehicles, which has just begun a big European sales drive for its award-winning T45 Roadtrain truck and is due to introduce a medium-weight version in the next few days.

Mercedes-Benz and Volvo, big names in the heavy truck sector, are among others who will bring new products to the market in the coming weeks and will join in the battle for the favours of the Continent's road hauliers and fleet operators.

The strategy adopted by truck manufacturers is two-pronged: the introduction of lighter weight, more economical vehicles, often equipped with turbo-charged engines, and a concentration on driver comfort and ease and cheapness of servicing.

The fight for sales in Europe is expected to be particularly intense. The London-based Economic Models group forecast recently that after a five per cent drop in 1980, total commercial vehicle sales in the major European markets of The Netherlands, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom would decline by a further 8.4 per cent this year to just over 894,000. The next peak in the demand cycle is predicted to occur in 1984, with total sales of nearly 1.1m.

In Britain the state of the market is far more gloomy. Total commercial vehicle sales were down by 11.4 per cent last year, with the heavy end of the market being the worst afflicted. Registrations of big trucks and articulated units were down 23 per cent against 1979 and in December alone suffered a fall of 47 per cent on a year earlier.

Against this background, attention has once again been focused on the apparent over-supply of lorries in Europe (there are at least 16 heavy truck manufacturers) and on the arguments for further rationalization and mergers.

Iveco was formed from the commercial vehicle interests of Fiat, OM, Unic, Lancia and Magirus Deutz in a bid to combat competition not only from Mercedes, the market leader in heavy trucks, but also from America and Japan. Iveco executives said this week that potential new partners for the group would always be considered, as would the possibility of establishing assembly plants in other countries, particularly the United States and China.

But it is thought that the most likely attempts at rationalization will be through greater collaboration on the development and production of components similar to the deal concluded last year between Leyland Vehicles and Zahnradfabrik Friedrichshafen (ZF) of West Germany, the world's leading manufacturer of gearboxes.

Last year, Iveco sold 2,439 heavy trucks in Britain (3,796 in 1979) while Volvo and Mercedes had the same sales total of 2,984. In 1979, Volvo was the leading importer with sales of 4,052.

Falling sales have led to a spate of discounting throughout Europe and many customers are being offered price reductions of up to 18 per cent. Italy, which has a home market largely protected against imports, is one of the few countries to escape the worst effects of the price war.

Edward Townsend

Record exports for Toyota and Nissan

Toyota and Nissan have reported from Tokyo record exports and production for 1980.

Toyota said vehicle exports rose 29 per cent last year to a record 1.78 million from 1.38 million in 1979, while Nissan said exports last year were a record 1.47 million, up 29 per cent from 1.15 million. It exported 704,600 vehicles to the United States last year, up 14.1 per cent and 128,300 to Saudi Arabia, up 19.1 per cent.

Nissan said it shipped 615,000 to the United States, up 23.5 per cent, and 102,800 to Britain, down 7.8 per cent.

NSW coal project

The New South Wales state government has approved the formation of a company to finance and construct a $A230m (about £113m) coal loader at Kooragang island, Newcastle, Mr Neville Wran, the Premier, said in Sydney. The state will take a 20 per cent stake in the scheme.

US building starts

New building starts, one of the key United States indicators, dropped 1 per cent in December, while 9 per cent fewer building permits were issued, the Commerce Department said in Washington. This was the first fall in building starts since May. The decline was attributed to high interest rates.

Finnair buys DC10

Finnair, the Finnish national airline, has announced the purchase of a new intercontinental range McDonnell Douglas DC-10 series 30 Tri-jet aircraft as a part of a growth programme including a service to Los Angeles.

US merchant fleet

The United States merchant fleet increased by 1 million tons last year to 24 million tons with 727 vessels, the commerce department announced in Washington. American shipyards had orders for or were producing 40 ships totalling 1,500,000 tons.

Call for curb on 'excess' money stock

By Our Financial Staff

The excess growth in the money supply over the past eight months should not be allowed to stay in the system, W. Greenwell, the broking firm argues in the latest edition of its *Monetary Bulletin*.

The brokers suggest that if the authorities do not take action to remove the excess money, then it will eventually work its way into prices.

At the moment, however, Greenwells believe that the trough of the present recession is unlikely to occur before the middle of the year, and that the authorities still have time to remove the "excess" money, which is mainly represented by the high level of liquid personal sector savings.

If inflation is to be prevented from rebounding, the brokers say that the personal sector must be persuaded to switch its short term money holdings into longer term investments.

This could be done in three ways: by pressing sales of existing debt instruments, such as National Savings and Granny Bonds; by experimenting with new debt instruments, such as 12 month Treasury bills, and an extension of indexing.

Greenwells put the underlying rate of growth in sterling M3 between April and December at 14 per cent, or an annual rate of 22 per cent.

50 per cent rate rises unthinkable, CBI says

By John Huxley

Business leaders yesterday gave a warning that further large rate rises by local authorities will lead to many more jobs lost and cuts in investment.

The Confederation of British Industry said that forecasts of an average rate rise of about 20 per cent, and rises of up to 50 per cent in some areas were "unthinkable". Business confidence was already being adversely affected. It calculated that the rate burden on business is likely to be equivalent to one third or more of the real profits earned by industrial and commercial companies in the United Kingdom during the present financial year.

"Many businesses just cannot afford to pay more," Mr John Monkman, chairman of the CBI's rating and valuation committee told a conference on rating held in London. "In the current financial year, business rates have increased by an average of 25 per cent. In some areas the increase is as much as 30 to 40 per cent. A further 20 per cent next year is unthinkable."

Mr Monkman said that rates now represented the second heaviest impost on business, which was expected to meet 45 per cent of the total national rate bill in 1981-82. "In other words, businesses must find £4,200m—which on its own is equivalent to a whole array of government taxes."

Rate rises have been the subject of a sustained campaign by the CBI in recent months. It has also been seeking a cut in the National Insurance surcharge levied on company payrolls and moves to reduce the burden on rising energy costs on industry, as well as a further reduction in interest rates.

The rates campaign has so far commanded relatively little national attention, but has been vigorously prosecuted by the CBI's regional groups. Apart from acting as local "watchdogs", they have attempted to alert the public to the reasons behind rate rises, and in some cases offered to check local authority bookkeeping, working through rates liaison groups.

The CBI has argued for some time that business is bearing the brunt of the Government's counter-inflation policies. For every 12 people in 1,000 made redundant in the private sector, fewer than one in 1,000 had lost their jobs in the public sector.

At the same time, many of the CBI's members are anxious to ensure that capital projects, rather than current spending on salaries and wages, do not bear a disproportionate share of expenditure cut backs by public authorities. The construction industry, for example, is by tradition heavily dependent on the public sector for contracts, and does not want to see these pared further.

Enterprise zone for the North

By Peter Hill

The Government is expected to announce shortly the location of a site for a tenth enterprise zone in the North of England. Efforts to press ahead with development of the enterprise zone concept—launched by Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer in the March Budget last year—were taken a stage further yesterday with an announcement by Mr Tom King, Minister for Local Government and Environmental Services.

Mr King said that formal invitations had been issued to the City of Salford, Trafford Metropolitan District Council and Dudley Metropolitan Borough to prepare enterprise zones schemes.

These are the first zones in England for which statutory invitations have been issued, although a formal invitation was made last month for a detailed scheme in the lower Swansea Valley.

The Salford-Trafford zone will occupy nearly 800 acres of Salford Docks and Trafford Park in Greater Manchester, while the Dudley zone will cover about 540 acres in the Blackbrook Valley in the West Midlands.

Other possible zones under consideration include Clydebank, Belfast, Corby, Speke on Merseyside, Newcastle and Gateshead, and the Isle of Dogs in London's dockland.

Oracle move to charge advertisers

Independent Television is formulating plans to sell advertising on its teletext service, Oracle, after April this year.

The new service is expected to raise about £5m each year for Oracle by the end of 1984, although it is still early to assess the response of advertisers.

At the moment advertising appears without charge as part of an information service. In future advertisers will buy pages.

The change in the Oracle service results from two clauses in the new Broadcasting Act. These clauses take effect from February 1 and effectively allow the service to raise revenue through advertising, although the limit within which that can be done has not been clearly defined.

Management at Oracle is awaiting a decision from the Home Office which will define how much advertising will be allowed. The management has requested that it be allowed to devote 15 per cent of the total number of pages to advertising and also be allowed to sell "two-line slogans" at the bottom of most of the remaining editorial pages.

There is no question of editorial pages being sponsored by advertising, according to the Oracle management. The request for 15 per cent of the teletext service's 400 pages to be devoted to advertising is thought justified. It compares favourably with that allowed on television—six minutes in every hour (10 per cent)—similar to commercial radio with nine minutes (15 per cent).

Oracle is also awaiting the Home Office decisions on whether the teletext service can use two more of the unused 625 lines that transmit television signals. There are in all 20 unused lines of which two are at present being used by Oracle. It wants to have a further one to increase its coverage and another for use by the television regions to insert their own information.

Philips, the television manufacturer, in its surveys on teletext has concluded that a strong local content is needed in the service. At a teletext conference in London last week Oracle committed the service to such local content.

The BBC was unable to make that comitment about Ceefax. It is also thought highly unlikely that the BBC would use its teletext service as a vehicle for raising revenue. Although raising revenue from Ceefax would interfere little with the programme presentation of the BBC many in the corporation view it as the thin end of the wedge.

Bill Johnstone

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

High priced energy for industry

From Mr A. F. D. Ferguson

Sir, With a debate on energy due in the Commons tomorrow it may now be appropriate to try to concentrate minds on some of the important issues about energy affecting British industry and reply to the points made in your columns by Mr Tony Speller MP on January 13. I fear the arguments he advanced may be the basis of the Government's case in the debate.

My case basically is that a high priced energy policy is excellent if every other competing country acts similarly but if only the United Kingdom pursues it the result is a slow lingering death for large segments of efficient British industry.

About 40 per cent of British industry employing 2½ million people use energy in production as opposed to ambient heating. In certain of the key industries in this country, the cost of energy is as high as 30 per cent of the sales value of the product. For some reason I am unable to understand, our elected representatives, including your correspondent, Tony Speller MP, refused to believe that these users in this country are paying on average 20 per cent more for energy than their competitors on the Continent and more than 30 per cent than in North America.

Reports from independent bodies such as various sector working parties of the National Economic Development Council and the Confederation of British Industry have proved these figures by comparing invoices between identical plants in the various countries to most reasonable peoples' satisfaction. Yet rather than tackle the problem critics argue about the magnitude of the differences. Rather than explore the taxation aspects, either directly (fuel excise tax) or indirectly (financial targets set for the nationalized industries), they and government advisers talk about subsidies. Similarly, rather than examine the present market pricing policies of, for example, British Gas Corporation, which ensure that there is no effective competition between fuels, they talk about industry asking for government controls.

I hope that the Commons debate may see some constructive approach as opposed to this fairly sterile argument. A final thought: in what other country could a bulk user of gas in industry pay 35p a therm to heat its kilns while its employees pay 22p per therm to heat their homes, as happens here in Britain?

Yours faithfully,
A. F. D. FERGUSON,
Chief Executive,
Boyle & Son Limited,
Stonebridge Mills,
Stonebridge Lane,
Leeds LS12 4QW.
January 20.

From Mr Luke Georghiou

Sir, As Mr Speller (January 13) rightly points out, a major question on the current debate over fuel costs for United Kingdom industry is whether the energy efficiency of British firms is comparable with that of overseas competitors. However, the level of efficiency is as much a consequence of circumstances imposed upon the companies as it is a result of their own actions. This is particularly evident in the argument over gas prices, which have been subject to the policies of successive governments.

A crude measure of efficiency is the ratio between the heat equivalent of the quantity of fuel consumed by an industry and some index of industrial production, generally known as the energy/output ratio. Apart from the statistical problems involved in compiling such data, the result is affected by the choice of fuels. For example, conversion of a process from coal or fuel oil to gas normally leads to improved efficiency because the intrinsic qualities of gas make it easier to use a greater proportion of the heat content. This, together with other qualities such as convenience and cleanliness, contributes to give gas a "premium" value over the other fuels. In a normal economic situation the industrialist then assesses whether the increased efficiency justifies the additional cost and, depending upon the size of the premium, a proportion of users will change to gas.

The problems we are faced with at present have their roots in the pricing policies adopted to achieve a rapid build-up of supplies from North Sea gasfields in the early 1970s. Gas was priced so cheaply that many industrial consumers converted who would not have done so otherwise. Now that the price is tending towards world market levels these consumers are finding a certain irreversibility in the change. Storage space for coal may have been disposed of, or the workforce in a foundry, say, may have become used to lower levels of pollution. Thus they find themselves tied to, what is for them, an uneconomic fuel. For many industries the life of their fuel-using equipment also has some years to run.

The simple answer is to invest in new equipment to meet the changed circumstances, but the depressed state of many of the industries involved means that the capital is simply unavailable. For some in particular difficulty, such as the paper industry, this has been a long-term problem and, although savings have been made, one wonders whether the full potential available from new equipment has been realized. It is vital that future energy policy should be not only a matter of supply and pricing but should also consider the ability of industry to *respond* to price changes. In the longer term it should also be seen as involving problems of investment and technological innovation for users as well as suppliers.

Yours faithfully,
L. GEORGHIOU,
Programme of Policy Research in Engineering, Science and Technology,
Department of Liberal Studies in Science,
The University,
Manchester M13 9 PL.

Stock relief and taxation

From Mr John A. Newman

Sir, The Inland Revenue published (in November 1980) a consultative paper on the future of stock relief and now the CCAB (Consultative Committee of Accountancy Bodies) has replied under the heading *Current cost accounts and taxation*.

Both these papers fail to analyse adequately the faults of the old and new reliefs. Stock relief under both systems arises simply from holding stock in itself. The main beneficiaries tend to be, therefore, supermarket and retail chain owners and others who hold large lines of stock. Furthermore, the larger the enterprise concerned the more able it is, by its superior resources to manipulate the amount of stock on hand and hence the relief which accrues to it.

As an accountant I feel that the tax system should not encourage bad business practices. Businesses should keep stocks to the minimum in both volume and value terms consistent with the needs of that business. Both forms of stock relief encourage the holding of excessive stocks to attract relief. A Conservative government should realize this, as should the CCAB.

The old relief accrued to businesses whether the stock concerned was financed by credit or not. This meant that some businesses which had a rapid trading cycle could receive the relief on stock paid for after it was sold. Thus the proposals for the new relief contain restrictions when stock is financed by credit. These are, in my view, anomalous and misconceived. To take an example: if company "X" had borrowed £2m to finance the building of a new factory for expansion and employment of more individuals, as compared with an equivalent company that had not, company "X" would have its stock relief restricted. Is this the best way to formulate a tax relief?

The proposals state that the balance of the old relief will not be clawed back—rather these lucky businesses which have received stock relief over the last few years will receive a windfall. There seems to be no reasons why this should occur.

To conclude, I feel that in this period of recession, high unemployment and technological change, the system of tax reliefs in the United Kingdom should be tailored to encourage the assimilation of technological change and the employment of United Kingdom individuals, not the holding of stock.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN NEWMAN,
Kingsgate House,
115 High Holborn,
London, WC1V 6JJ.

Assessment of training boards

From Mr Peter Vogel

Sir, May I protest at the sweeping negative assessment of training boards made by the Centre for Policy Studies.

My company is investing heavily at what could be said to be the textile industry's worst time for decades. Part of the decision-making process for this investment has been our attitude to change. One's reaction to it as a "threat" or an "opportunity" is clearly a matter of attitude.

The Cotton and Allied Textiles Training Board has so rightly recognized this exceedingly difficult area and has, among the many other excellent services they offer, a unique Organizational Development Unit. The workshops this unit runs create awareness and promotes a capability for individuals and companies to cope positively with change.

Not only would it be a tragedy for that unit to be dissolved but I cannot see any sort of "voluntary activity" or commercial organization acting as positively and helpfully as our training board.

The challenge of this decade is to change successfully with change. Our training board has, in my view, a dramatically important role to play in that process.

Yours faithfully,
H. PETER VOGEL,
Managing Director,
Perivale-Gütermann Limited,
Wadsworth Road,
Greenford,
Middlesex, UB6 7JS.
January 16.

Loans for small business

From Mr A. G. W. Scott

Sir, The experimental government loan guarantee scheme is, of course, to be welcomed but perhaps one who has spent a considerable part of his working life rearing and rescuing "small" businesses may offer a constructive comment.

New businesses, on the whole, do not find insuperable difficulty in raising loan capital if well founded and managed. Their difficulty is nearly always to find the interest and periodic capital repayments out of taxed profits, and leave enough behind for the business to grow out of its own resources. True, there may subsequently come a time when further loans are more difficult to obtain because they would form too great a proportion of the whole capital structure—outweighing by too much the proprietors' stake, whether shares or partners' capital.

The cure for both troubles is the same; it is for the Chancellor to devise a scheme for the proprietors of a growing business, for an initial period, to be untaxed or taxed on a favourable sliding scale, on profits earned which they are prepared to leave in the business *as permanent capital*. This was how businesses found the means of growth in the days of low rates of tax, and somehow a climate has got to be recreated in which a growing business can feed and grow on itself.

It should not be beyond the wit of a Conservative government, with the avowed intention of helping small businesses, to find a way which will do this without abuse or too much red tape. After all, this would be the Chancellor's own seed corn; little successful businesses grow into big successful businesses, who pay a lot of tax—when they are on their feet.

Yours faithfully,
A. G. W. SCOTT,
5 Breakspeare,
College Road,
Dulwich,
London SE21 7NB.
January 17.

BL incentives

From Mr Irving Stone

Sir, Having read Mr Penhaligon's letter (January 15) suggesting that the Government promise the workforce of BL "that all profits made in the next five years would be distributed among them" and then his observation that "the trouble is hardly any British Leyland employee believes it will ever make any money and even if it does they know it will not directly benefit them", I can only confess to a feeling of incredulity when I see that Mr Penhaligon's official title is Liberal Party spokesman for industry.

I trust that this contradictory, confused logic is not representative of his party's other policies.

Yours truly,
IRVING STONE,
Flat 1,
13 Old Church Street,
London, SW3.
January 15.

Drive for lower interest rates

From Mr Edward A. Kalfayan

Sir, Mr Maltby's letter (January 5) and the many others rooting for lower interest rates do not disclose the main counter-argument.

I will borrow any sum up to six figures from him at higher rates than he complains of. Will he lend it to me?

Presumably, he is a borrower. It looks quite different to a lender. At today's interest rates anybody who invests money is still putting it into somebody else's sieve. From time to time the size of the holes change but there is always a net drain. By the time the principal is returned the erosion of capital by inflation is greater than the cost of interest after tax. He knows that. But with so many putting their money on deposit in banks or building societies at 11¼ per cent or less, no one can blame him for trying that argument again.

The City, we are told, is currently awash with money. Let it be offered at widely differing rates of interest and create a proper market for different levels of security and risk, then a lot of entrepreneurs with good products and efficient levels of service could obtain loans for expansion despite poor balance sheets—with benefit to overall economic activity and job creation. And please don't let another bank chairman write that there is money for every good prospect. In my experience a pedestrian idea with or without asset backing has more chance than a brilliant one. Banks are frightened of marketing, though it is marketing that Britain desperately needs in a situation of declining world trade. Valuable innovation with proved market acceptance by large companies but without asset backing still has no friend.

If interest rates really are too high there must be many wishing to lend my company money at today's interest rates—or higher. Please let them go higher still and shake out the undeserving borrower with a poor project who would tie up assets to no good purpose. A few fingers may be burned in the property market, for there the sieves have been held out successfully for so many years that serious distortions have taken place in our productive ability and the country is paying for it now.

Yours faithfully,
EDWARD A. KALFAYAN,
Managing Director,
Letterstream Limited,
45 Conduit Street,
London W1R 9FB.

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Exchange markets wait for US policy changes

Ahead of the release of the American hostages and the unfreezing of Iranian financial assets, foreign exchange markets have been quiet and cautious. The general feeling in markets seems to be that the freeing of the Iranian assets is unlikely to lead to any *sudden switching of funds in a seriously destabilizing way*. For a start, that would hardly be in the Iranians' own interest. There does, however, seem to have been a certain amount of hedging, with sterling one of the main beneficiaries so far.

If the Iranian situation has been uppermost in the market's mind for the past few days, it is, of course, a transient consideration. What markets are really going to have to get to gripe with over the coming months is the evolution of the economic policy of the new United States Government.

At the moment we seem to have the prospect of fiscal risk-taking set against a monetary authority confirmed in its resolve to control the monetary aggregates. That at least should make for a fascinating year ahead, and almost certainly a tricky one for *investors in dollar markets*.

Trident Television

Uncertain times

Trident Television is still the programme contractor for Tyne-Tees and Yorkshire, and it is still pulling in a lot of advertising. It is, however, unsure of just about everything else and yesterday's rise in the non-voting shares of 2p to 47½p may simply reflect relief at the group's possible departure from IBA networking.

Turnover grew from £64.5m to £90m in the year to last September and pretax profits rose from £7.5m to £9.1m. Advertising peaked after a two-month old ITV strike but income fell temporarily thanks to a delay in receipt of revenue which cut into interest income.

"Other interests" in fact saw profits fall from £2.34m to £2.19m, thanks to the cost of building up the United States offshoot, Trident Television Associates which buys television material and distributes it, chiefly in the United States. But last year it had *little time to do any selling*.

These *other* interests which include Windsor Safari Park and Watts and Corry *in scenery construction seem to be moving* forward, and TTA is now making small profits. Advertising revenue is holding up unexpectedly well but more and more *of it* is being booked on a hand-to-mouth basis. So the decision to raise the dividend by 15 per cent *is* cautious.

If the board had stuck to its stated policy of covering dividends twice, the total payment would *have been 4.3p*.

It is, then, anyone's guess whether profits this year will approach last year's level which *present trends imply*. It is also, despite talks with the IBA, anyone's guess whether Trident will be left with useful stakes in the two programme networks.

If not, and smoke signals indicate caution, Trident may get out of contracting altogether.

It could well be that Trident will emerge with assets of 55p to 60p a share of which a lot will be in cash at the end of a divesting exercise. So the shares now yielding 12 per cent seem worth keeping even if Trident without networks does not fall victim to a bid.

Lonrho/Fraser

Is the pantomime now over?

For the second time in seven months House of Fraser's shareholders have routed an attempt by Lonrho to call the shots in Fraser's boardroom. Significantly, too, yesterday's defeat for Mr Rowland's camp—71.5 million votes against 51.9 million—was almost as heavy as that incurred when it attempted to force up the department store group's dividend last June.

Is it too much to hope that the pantomime is now over? Having reportedly cost Fraser shareholders £1m so far in defending its decisions against Lonrho, Lonrho should appreciate that further moves of this kind could be judged rash and not only in the Fraser boardroom.

Followers of Mr Rowland's tactical abilities will naturally maintain that Lonrho has only been softening-up Fraser for a final blow—*a bid for the 70 per cent of shares it* does not already own. That bid may indeed be on its way, but it is hard to see how Lonrho's manouvres has altered Fraser's market profile as a bid prospect.

Fraser's share price fell 2p to 126p yesterday, where it is worth £190m in the market and still represents a very big bite indeed for Lonrho which is capitalized at £248m. Indeed, if a bid had been his intention, Mr *Rowland's timing looks badly awry. Fraser claims record trading last Christmas and its* balance sheet has been strengthened by the



Mr Rowland, Lonrho's chief executive, at yesterday's House of Fraser meeting in Glasgow.

£40m of sale and leaseback deals which Lonrho attempted to block.

But whatever its long-term game-plan—if indeed it has one—Lonrho must realise that now is the time to "put up or shut up" with regard to its *perennial takeover suggestions*.

It should bid or call off its vendetta and allow Fraser's executives to run the store *group if it is not to lay itself open to* accusations of "harassment" and irresponsibility.

Inveresk

A foothold for an American

It is clear why Inveresk is recommending the 35p a share bid from Georgia-Pacific. It has at best an erratic record—profits peaked at £4.7m pretax in 1974 and have been on a downward trend ever since—and its shareholders saw *dividends* reduced in both 1978 and 1979 until last year's interim was finally omitted following half-year losses of £1.6m.

The recession in the paper and printing industry has also ensured that Inveresk's results for the second half of 1980 will be much worse than in the first half. There *has been further retrenchment and nearly* a quarter of the workforce was made redundant during 1980.

So with trading losses and redundancy and closure costs heading for £7m in 1980—and another difficult year in prospect—Inveresk had little choice but to recommend an offer pitched over two-fifths above the market price before the preliminary announcement of talks was made.

Georgia-Pacific, meanwhile, evidently wants a foothold in the European paper industry and has known Inveresk for a long time. It is *paying* £7.1m *compared with* assets of perhaps £12m after last year's losses but the puzzle is that the main attraction of Inveresk—much of whose industrial assets are fairly old—is its investment properties valued at £8.3m.

Presumably Georgia-Pacific will sell some of these off to pay off borrowings which will have risen sharply in 1980 from the £6.6m in the 1979 accounts—a course which *Inveresk was already considering anyway.*

Takeover battle for Denmark's North Sea oil

Copenhagen

Legislation to be presented to the Folketing (the Danish par*liament) later this month will* drastically speed up the exploration and exploitation of Denmark's offshore North Sea oil and gas reserves.

The move follows the decision last month by the *Danish Social Democratic* minority government to nationalize Denmark's North Sea fields after the breakdown of 10 months of difficult negotiations with A. P. Moeller, the private Danish industrial, *shipping and prospecting con*cern, which at present exercises the concession exclusively.

The story of Denmark's North Sea offshore adventure is not without its romantic aspects. In 1932, according to a recently screened Danish television news documentary, Mr Thorvald Stauning, Denmark's first Social Democratic Prime *Minister, fell in love with the* then United States envoy to Denmark, Mrs Ruth Bryan Owen. This led to an American *friend of the ambassador*, a Mr Frederick F. Ravlin, who was an eccentric engineer and self-styled oil prospector from Miami, landing the entire Danish onshore and offshore underground concession in 1935.

By 1962 the concession had changed hands several times to land back in Danish hands, A. P. *Moeller then gaining the* entire concession for 50 years by agreement with the then Social Democratic government. *In 1962 the full potential of the* North Sea as a source of oil and gas energy was not realized.

Dissatisfied with Moeller's sole rights, and increasingly critical of the slow pace of the exploration of the North Sea offshore areas by Moeller, the (at that time also Social Democratic) government again held talks with the concern in 1976. These resulted in Moeller agreeing to return 10 per cent of the area every five years, starting this year, a process *which has already been* embarked upon this month.

The latest round of negotiations on greater state control, *initiated* last February, collapsed irrevocably in mid-December after Moeller failed to agree to returning all unexplored offshore areas to the state by 1990, starting with 45 per cent in 1983. The state also insisted on the right to purchase 40 per cent of all oil and gas produced by Moeller, which exercises the concession through the so-called Danish Underground Consortium (DUC), in cooperation with Shell, Standard Oil *and* Texaco.

DUC has made a small number of oil finds and, as from this year, expects to pro*duce some 2 million tonnes of* oil per year from the North Sea.

The parties were also unable *to reach agreement* about state ownership of an offshore pipeline connecting the fields with the Jutish mainland.

The legislation will be in four stages, with the government expropriating the as yet un*exploited areas of the North Sea* which represent 80 per cent of the total Danish North Sea sector and leaving Moeller to *exploit the 20 per cent it has* been and is exploiting (largely the south-west area fringing on the German sector, where the so-called Dan Vagn, Nils, Per, Tove, Gorm, Tyra, Roar, Adda and Lulu fields are located).

The next stage will give the state first refusal of half of all oil produced, while the third *stage will compel the consor*tium and other eventual oil producers to use state-owned and operated pipelines to land all North Sea oil. *The first three* stages of the legislation are to be passed before the summer recess.

The government also plans to present further legislation to parliament next October (stage *four), altering Denmark's North* Sea taxation and licensing terms to bring them more into line with British and Norwegian practice.

As regards state taxation, DUC *is* at present liable to pay only an 8.5 per cent royalty and 40 per cent corporate tax to the Danish state. Nor has the block system, such as is in operation in other countries' North Sea offshore fields, yet been introduced for the leasing of areas to prospectors.

New companies will be offered licences in the nationa*lized area this spring* and the Danish Ministry of Energy claims that a dozen have already shown interest. Moeller's reaction to the government's plans has been to threaten to sue for breach of contract and compensation, a claim which could, legal experts say, amount to a multi-million kroner sum.

DUC has to date invested some 6,000m kroner (£424m) in North Sea activities. Years of legal haggling and court cases are *expected* as Moeller also claims the expropriation to be unconstitutional, a fact which Mr Anker Joergensen, the *Prime Minister, dismisses on* the grounds that the legislation is in the national interest.

By carefully taking over only unexploited areas of the North Sea and leaving Moeller the areas it is working the govern*ment hopes to render any expro*priation compensation claim from the company legally invalid.

Undeterred by the threats of *legal action*, Mr Joergensen has also said that the leasing out of the newly nationalized areas of the Danish North Sea to new licensees will go on, regardless, after the passing of the new Bill and not be subject to delay.

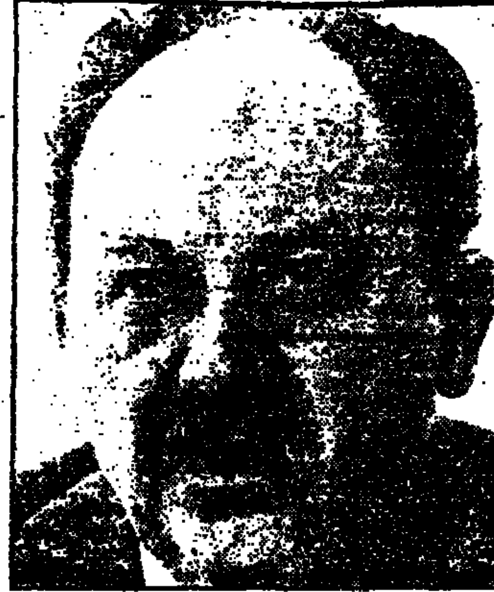
Backed by leftist parties, the government has a safe majority in parliament for the nationalization legislation, which is also strongly *supported by Danish* public opinion. Appeals by the Liberal and Conservative and other rightist parties for the government to reopen negotiations with Moeller were firmly rejected as unrealistic by the Prime Minister earlier this month.

Mr Joergensen has ignored renewed calls this week from a majority of political parties to reopen negotiations with A. P. Moeller, after a statement by the director of the concern in the Conservative newspaper *Berlingske Tidende* last Sunday to the effect that the differences between Moeller and the government over new rules for the North Sea were minimal.

The Prime Minister reiterated *yesterday that any new* approach would have to come from Moeller and represent a radical improvement on the *concern's previous stance*, which he did not think was in the offing. Mr Joergensen added that his government intended to press on with the new legislation, only consulting Moeller where necessary

Danish North Sea oil output is expected to reach about 40,000 barrels per day in the early part of this decade, a modest yield compared with the 2 million barrels produced daily by Norway and Britain. None the less, when the Danish North Sea gas *comes on stream in* 1984, the North Sea will be providing 30 per cent of Denmark's total energy needs, rising to almost *half* by the end of the decade. This will make a vital contribution to the fuel requirements of the otherwise resourceless Denmark and ease its chronic balance of payments deficit.

Christopher Follett



Two prime ministers closely involved in the history of the Danish oil fields: left, Mr Thorvald Stauning, whose friendship with the United States's woman ambassador to Denmark led to the entire onshore and offshore concession being given to an American prospector in 1935; right, Mr Anker Joergensen, the present prime minister, who believes that nationalization is in the country's interest.

Many bargain offers are not what they seem

Shops that are still breaking the law

Robin Young

Many of the bargains offered in the January sales have been, *if not false, illegal. A walk* down Oxford Street produced 10 windows' full of illegal sale price tickets in as many minutes.

Indeed, very few shops can claim to have price marking *which complies impeccably with* the Price Marking (Bargain Offers) Order, 1979, a piece of legislation which has been held *by many to be completely unin*telligible.

The Department of Trade's explanatory notes—intended to guide enforcement officers through the order's complexities—themselves run to 9¼ closely typed foolscap pages and even then the advice offered leaves room for doubt about what would and what would not be *caught under the order's terms.*

Trading standards officers and businessmen alike claimed at the time of its introduction that the order could neither be understood nor enforced.

There is evidence, however, that the order, brought in by the last Labour government on the advice of the Director-General of Fair Trading, is *beginning to bite*.

Though prosecutions under the Trade Descriptions Act have to be notified, no one records centrally those made under the Prices Act and its associated orders. What follows, therefore, is the most comprehensive summary as yet available of successful prosecutions to date for contraventions of the bargain offers order.

The results go some way to indicate more clearly what really is illegal now that the *order is in force. They also* show what are likely to continue to be the favourite targets for trading standards departments which do decide to devote some priority to the order's enforcement.

The principal provisions of the order came into force on July 2, 1979. Eighteen months later there appear to have been 14 successful prosecutions for breaching them. A handful more are in the pipeline.

The most signal success for the order's champions was certainly the case in west Yorkshire brought against MFI *Furniture Centres, one of the* companies whose advertising style fuelled the concern that led to the order's introduction. MFI was fined £500 on each of ten counts arising from advertisements for a "half price" sale, when it was shown that the prices charged were the same before, during and after the sale.

MFI was also among the victims claimed by the zealous enforcement officers in Croydon. There the company was fined £50 *on* each of three charges arising from a newspaper advertisement showing price comparisons with "normal *MFI prices" which had in fact* never been charged at the store concerned.

Croydon also chalked up fines of £10 on *each* of ten charges against a company called Vogue Interiors, which showed price tickets marked "sale" without any indication of what the previous price had been.

Implied and unspecified reductions of this kind are the most widespread offences against the Bargain Offers Order at present, but as yet there has been only one other successful prosecution on this score—in Devon where a local trader was fined £25 on each of four *counts*.

Croydon won a fine of £300 against Eastern Carpet Stores, which claimed to be selling carpet at a 54 per cent reduction, but had never charged the "*usual price*" it *showed, and* a penalty of £100 against Homecharm Retail, which used an illegal comparison with the manufacturers' alleged recommended price on an electrical appliance.

Comparisons with the manufacturer's recommended price are illegal on beds and mattresses, domestic electrical appliances and their counterparts using other fuels, consumer electronic goods, carpets and furniture.

In Tyne and *Wear* Robert Anthony (Investment Jeweller) was fined £500 on ten charges for price indications on jewelry in which comparisons were made with what were said to be insurance valuations. Another case will be heard shortly in which the trader is expected to plead guilty, having used tickets saying: "Today's value X — *our price* Y."

Statements which suggest that the retail price indicated is less than the goods are worth are banned *by the order*, even if what is claimed can be substantiated. A Devon trader had to pay £25 for suggesting that something's "value" was higher than its price.

In Blackburn, Lancashire, a furniture warehouse's advertisements fetched two fines of £100, and in Burton, Staffordshire, a stock disposal trader was similarly fined £50 each on two charges, having quoted "normal prices" which were not in fact his own.

If prices elsewhere are quoted, the details must be specific and accurate. A firm called Addastix and its salesman *slipped* up on that in Avon when claiming orally that the three-piece suite which they were selling "would cost £600 at Jolly's in Bath." The claim could not be substantiated and it cost them £50 each.

Diligent work with tape recorders also caught a one-day sale operator in Derbyshire saying "elsewhere you would expect to pay £32—my price is £12" and it cost him £25.

In Dorset a market trader was fined £50 for each of four vague oral price claims. The recorders were even more suc*cessful in Devon and Kent*, where the same mock auctioneer was caught in both counties in full spate with worth and value claims ("worth" this, "*normally*" that, "normally retailing at" and "in a catalogue it would cost"), which cost him £25 on each of 10 charges.

The tally is not overwhelming—14 *cases involving* 60 charges brought *by* nine authorities, netting £7,150 in fines—but it shows that trad*ing standards authorities are at* last making sense—and getting successful prosecutions—out of the order. Traders no doubt dislike liability to fines, which could go up to £1,000 on summary conviction, for offences which they might regard as technical, but it appears that in all these cases consumers might have been misled by the *sort* of price comparisons that were being made.

Advertisers also now have *less excuse that they do not* understand the provisions of the order. The Advertising Standards Authority suspended the relevant section of the British Code of Advertising Practice shortly after the bargain offers order was introduced, claiming that the code might be brought into irreconcilable conflict with the law.

While the code *generally* permitted claims which could be substantiated, the bargain offers order prohibited some of them. Equally, some advertisements which would not have been acceptable under the code would not have offended the order.

The difficulty has still not been resolved but Mr Peter Thomson, the *ASA's director*-general, has now produced and circulated his own guidance notes on the order.

These fill eight pages (and then *give* warning that they "do not attempt completeness") and *refer to some* pitfalls that have been little publicized hitherto. Comparisons with an advertiser's *future intended price*, for example, must make clear precisely when it is proposed to charge the new price. (At the same time it seems doubtful that a prosecution would succeed simply because, in the event, the price was not then increased.)

Mr Thomson's interpretation is also that advertisers *cannot compare their present* prices with competitors' previous prices, even if the circumstances are precisely spelt *out. He issues a strong warn*ing against unspecific claims, but says that phrases like "up to 50 per cent off" are not necessarily objectionable, though in conjunction with a price claim they might run into trouble with some trading standard authorities.

Business Diary: Novamark's maestros match Metro

John Murphy and Mike Grant are the directors of the company which came up with the name Metro for BL.

That is their biggest "find" to date in seven years of looking for names, *although they* think they have another good 'un coming off in a few weeks with the launch of a disposable razor which on their advice Gillette is to call Slalom.

Murphy and Grant are the *men behind Novamark Inter*national, whose motto is "We create trademarks all over the world".

BL came to Novamark early in 1979, about 18 months before Metro, then codenamed LC8, *was due to be launched*.

The problem, Murphy told me yesterday, was not that BL could not find a name, but that it had too many. One of those I heard was rather apt—it was "Termini"—because it could *have been the end of the road* for BL if Metro had flopped.

BL wanted something short, and that was not rude in any language or "owned" by anybody else.

Four months and £18,000 *later Novamark came up with* three names, of which Metro was BL's, rather than Novamarks, favourite. Grant thought that Maestro was more original and Murphy liked the sportier feel of Match.

They come up with these and other names with the help of "creative groups", among *which are people like* Scrabble champion David Stirling. The groups had two-hour sessions.

Murphy and Grant came into this business through cars: the former was once a marketing man for Dunlop, lumbered with *finding a name for a new tyre*—it later appeared after a long search as the Denovo—and the latter was a trade mark lawyer with the same company.

Finding that employees and advertising agencies can come up with names aplenty, but not the one that is necessarily right either in marketing or legal times, Murphy and Grant threw in their jobs and their lots together.

They now have offices in London and *New York and* are trying to break into Japan. They "protect" existing trade marks as well as dreaming them up.

My grip on the interview began to slacken when Grant, in an effort to illustrate some *of the wilder shores of product* naming, darted over to the shelves you can see in John Manning's photograph and came back with an aerosol of Super Piss.

I thought this was what Grant was taking, but it really is the name of a Finnish product for unfreezing car locks — and moreover one sold in this country. Not to be outdone, Murphy then handed me a packet of Bum, the brand name of some crisps PepsiCola sell in Spain.

Grant, the lawyer, watches over less exotically named brand names for manufacturers such as Mars.

Curiously enough, the name "Novamark" is not one of Murphy and Grant's own. It is an off-the-peg one, if a nice fit for all that and came to them when they acquired the British business of a French firm that *once traded under that name.*

I should add, perhaps, that they got my name wrong and called me "Davis" instead of "Davies" in a letter they sent me the other day, but we got that straight when I called on them yesterday.



Photograph by John Manning

Putting a name to the product: John Murphy (left) and Mike Grant, managing director and fellow director of Novamark International in London yesterday.

I have had a letter from the British Printing Industries Federation to say that presentation of the National Business Calendar Awards will be made on Wednesday, January 28, and not on "Wednesday, February 28", as previously advised. Besides being a month out, February 28 is in any case a Saturday, as calendar printers should know. The hapless lady who sent the letter of correction is a Helena Memory.

● Of all the parties involved in the hostages drama, the Iranians, the Americans, the Algerians and the British, it was the British who to the end remained the most secretive.

Even as the two emissaries from the Bank of England flew on Friday to Algiers to help with fund transfer problems and new Iranian accounts, *the* authorities in London only reluctantly admitted that they had gone there at all.

Kit McMahon, the deputy governor at the Bank and David Somerset, the chief cashier, are in their normal roles far from being trouble-shooters

Kit McMahon, a 53-year-old genial Australian has spent much of his life as an academic economist. His career is not that of a traditional banker. He joined the Bank in 1964 after a spell at the Treasury

But McMahon's reputation at the Bank *rests firmly on* his international role. In 1976 he was the main negotiator of the $5,300m sterling rescue package which included support from the Fed and other central banks as well as International Monetary Fund (IMF) backing.

David Somerset, the chief cashier since last year, is the man whose name appears on British banknotes. *He* is also reputed to be one of the best technical bankers around.

His career is that of a traditional central banker with only a three-year spell at the IMF.

●Having noted Kenneth Baker's appointment as Minister of State for Industry and Information Technology, I was naturally interested to know whom he would appoint as his PPS.

In fact, as I learnt yesterday, it is John Lee, who entered the House after last year's general election as the member for Nelson and Colne, *although he* has been around in Tory politics for much longer, notably as *political secretary to* Robert Carr.

It was, however, in Lee's business background that I was most interested. The Department of Industry said in a statement that he had founded *and later sold out his own* quoted group and was a director of a building society, but the civil servants named neither.

It was here that industry and information technology broke down, for nobody at the minister's ministry could supply the missing names.

They are in fact, Chancery Consolidated, which Lee sold out to Arguthnot Latham six years ago, and the Midshires Building Society.

Out of place: reader P. C. J. Nair writes from Kuala Lumpur to say that he saw in Singapore recently a sign advertising a company called Unlimited Enterprises Limited.

Ross Davies

FINANCIAL NEWS

Stock markets

Release of hostages sparks flurry of activity

Equities took their cue yesterday from the previous night's strength of Government securities as buyers nibbled away, pushing prices higher in generally thin conditions.

Dealers reported a further improvement in confidence by mid-morning with leading industrials scoring gains of several pence as talk of a further cut in the Minimum Lending Rate in the next Budget continued apace.

Worries over the escalation of the seamen's strike and the impending strike by local government workers appeared to take a back seat. But gold shares showed further weakness on the back of the bullion price because of the United States hostages situation.

After lunch, jobbers complained that inquiry was beginning to fizzle out as the hostages continued to wait for their flight home and fears of a breakdown in the deal began to surface.

However, confirmation that the aircraft had taken off saw a flurry of activity after hours with the *FT* Index closing 5.0 higher at 458.6 after being only 2.9 ahead at 3 pm.

Gilts themselves made another firm start but the lack of follow through was enough to cancel earlier gains of around £¼. The Government broker activated some of his specialist "tap" Treasury 3 per cent 1985 "A" at £72⅝, upon which it rallied to £72 21/32, before closing unchanged. The picture was more or less the same across the board with most issues closing unchanged.

Leading industrials improved after a hesitant start but finished below their best levels of the day. Beecham showed a rise of 2p on the day at 170p along with Glaxo at 248p, Unilever at 443p, BAT at 233p and GKN at 150p.

Fisons hardened 4p to 132p, but **ICI**, having rallied to 288p, closed unchanged at 286p still reflecting the worries over next month's dividend payout.

Shares of **British Enkalon** were requoted 2p lower at 5p

The strong resilience of the food sector, backed up by recent bullish talk about January sales trends, was borne out again yesterday. A line of more than 100,000 J. Sainsbury shares were snapped up in minutes yesterday and the share price went on the rally 7p at 368p.

after the news that its parent Akzo was offering no further financial support and intended to make 800 workers redundant at its Antrim factory.

On the bid front, shares of **Inveresk Group** dipped 1½p to 33p after the agreed bid of 33p a share from Georgia Pacific. But shares of **Olives Paper Mills** rose 3p to 20p.

Elsewhere, **Booth International** climbed another 4p to 57p upon receiving terms of the offer from Garnar Scotblair, 3p cheaper at 69p. But **Davy Corporation's** decision to take Enserch to court in an attempt to fight off its recent advances cost it 4p at 148p.

Profit taking had **Boustead** 6p lighter at 106p after a recent bout of Far Eastern buying as **Renwick** hardened 1p to 74p amid speculation that **Kangra International** was about to bid, having extended its stake to 27.51 per cent.

Stag Line leapt 20p to 395p after hours as the board announced it was in talks that might lead to a counterbid in opposition to the one from Hunting Gibson.

Details of a rights issue to raise £830,000 clipped 2p from **Hampton Trust** at 62½p. Speculative attention had **Brengreen** up 2½p to 48p, **Sheffield Brick** 4p to 30p, **Ocean Transport** 6p to 121p, **J. Bibby** 8p to 232p, **Davenports Brewery** 8p to 105p, **Crouch Group** 8p to 150p and **Stocklake Holdings** 4p to 80p.

"Buy" recommendations saw **Pilkington Bros** 9p heavier at 260p, **McKechnie Brothers** 4p to 89p and **Granada** 4p to 192p, while further concessions to shareholders lifted **European Ferries** 4p to 149p.

The Government's intention not to cut defence spending further sent defence shares higher after hours. But jobbers described trade as quiet in thin conditions. **Racal** rose 3p to 302p, **Ferranti** 5p to 455p, and **Thorn EMI** 4p to 290p. **Unitech** rallied after recent weakness, climbing 11p to 240p, and bid rumours saw **MK Electric** 13p dearer at 190p. But adverse comment clipped 6p from **Muirhead** at 76p.

In engineering, **Westland Aircraft** dipped 5p to 123p, following the sales warning, although **Hawker Siddeley** managed a 6p rise at 242p.

The main feature in stores was **House of Fraser's** victory over Lonrho, in forcing through its sale and leaseback proposals. But after a strong risee the previous day shares of House of Fraser closed 2p easier at 126p yesterday. Optimistic remarks over retail sales this month found **Freemans (SW9)** 6p higher at 108p and **Grattan's** 2p stronger at 58p, while in foods **B .Matthews** climbed 11p to 318p, in a thin market. and **Hazlewood Foods** gained 9p at 134p.

Awaiting figures today, **Trusthouse Forte** rose 3p to 183p with **Associated Dairies**, reporting next week, 6p better at 196p.

Banks recovered slightly after worries earlier in the week about dividends, with **Barclays** 3p stronger at 401p and **Midland** at 328p and **Lloyds** at 331p, both 3p up, while **National**

Dixons Photographic, with its development into consumer electronics, is still rated modestly after the City's recent fascination with the electrical sector which helped push the price to its current 133p, say brokers Capel-Cure Myers. Its long term growth prospects are also based on its strong photographic market identification.

Westminster mustered a 2p rise at 360p. Among discount houses **Alexanders Discount** made the most of recent figures, 5p heavier at 282p, with **Union Discount**, reporting today, 10p to the good at 508p. In financials, speculative attention helped **Britannia Arrow** 2p to 46p amid talk that Hongkong & Shanghai Bank was interested

Equity turnover on January 19 was £85.828m (14,562 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to the Exchange Telegraph, were European Ferries, Bass, Levex, ICI, Grand Met, Brooke Bond Liebig, Associated Dairies, BP, BAT, GEC, House of Fraser, Barclays Bank, Lasmo and Marks & Spencer.

Traded Options: Marks & Spencer attracted strong support accounting for 232 contracts out of a total of 984.

Traditional options saw calls made in ICI at 24p, John Brown at 6p and British Land at 7½p.

Latest results

Company Int or Fin	Sales £m	Profits £m	Earnings per share	Div pence	Pay date	Year's total
Bootham Eng (F)	7.8(6.6)	0.41(0.79)	26.65(45.5)	6(—)	—	11.5(11.5)
Countryside Prop (F)	14.5(12.0)	0.9(1.3)	13.6(20.7)	2.1(—)	—	3.5(—)
Hales Properties (I)	—(—)	0.23(0.19)	5.0(4.8)	1.0(1.0)	5/3	3.5(3.1)
Heron Motor (I)	45.9(65.8)	0.25†(1.04)	0.67(1.78)	0.4(0.8)	—	—(1.72)
Leda Inv (F)	—(—)	0.38*(0.33*)	4.32(3.81)	2.8(—)	27/2	4.27(3.78)
Palmerston Inv (I)	—(—)	0.12(0.003†)	—(—)	0.59(0.59)	3/3	—(—)
Property Secs (i)	—(—)	2.33(2.13)	—(—)	0.5(0.4)	—	1.8(—)
Trident TV (F)	90.0(64.5)	9.13(7.51)	8.6(5.7)	2.74(2.38)	3/4	4.0(3.48)
Wellman Eng (I)	17.3(11.8)	0.4(0.54)	3.36(2.29)	1.6(1.6)	9/3	—(3.35)

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.428. Profits are shown pretax and earnings are net. *=gross revenue. †=loss.

Heron Motor halves interim after plunge into losses

By Rosemary Unsworth

Heron Motor Group, like many other car retailers, has been hit sharply by the recession and its first-half figures show pretax losses, a sharp drop in sales and a halved interim.

The losses came to £247,000 compared with last year's interim profit of £1m. Sales to third parties were down by 30 per cent from £65.8m to £45.9m in the six months to September 30 1980. This partly reflects the groups rationalization scheme, which has closed more than 30 outlets in the last three years.

Mr Gerald Ronson, the chairman, said that although the results were very disappointing they were an improvement on last year's second half. The trading profit of £101,000 compares with a loss of £156,000 while an after-interest loss of £247,000 compares with one of £833,000.

The branch rationalization contributed to the improvement and was reflected in lower overheads and interest charges which dipped from £424,000 to £348,000. The rationalization is now virtually complete and extraordinary losses from closures will be absorbed by surpluses from the disposal of the properties. With assets a share at 47p in the last accounts, Mr Ronson said this year's accounts will show an improvement on that figure.

Mr Gerald Ronson, chairman and chief executive of Heron Corporation.

Although turnover is expected to be around £100m by the year end, against £122m last year trading continues to be highly competitive and it is difficult to anticipate the final result Mr Ronson said.

The introduction of the Rolls Royce Spirit and Spur had been well received but he added that older models were much harder to sell. Despite the success of the Metro, it could only be viewed as the start of the rebuilding o fthe BL model range.

The interim dividend has been halved from 1.14p gross to 0.57p in view of the continuing uncertainties, and the prospect of a difficult year for the motor group. On the news, the shares dipped ½p to 23p, a new low.

Takeover bid for Rosgill

By Margareta Pagano

Rosgill Holdings was the subject of a surprise takeover bid yesterday from a newly formed private company, Lawncast, which is jointly owned by Rosgill's former chairman, Mr James Ingles, and Amber Day Holdings.

The board at Rosgill, which sells lingerie and clothing by direct selling methods, was said last night to be "outraged and very surprised" by the bid, which values the group at £2.6m. The board, whose chairman now is Mr David Peel, and its advisers, County Bank, described the offer as entirely inadequate.

"It totally ignores the underlying profitability of Rosgill, particularly in view of the trading figures recently announced", Mr Peel said. "The directors do not consider any commercial advantage of an association with Amber Day."

The offer from Lawncast—which would be 78 per cent owned by Amber if the deal went through—is at 27.5p per share. The share price held at 29p through the day, its high for the year. Lawncast has already acquired or obtained irrevocable acceptances representing 62.5 per cent of Rosgill's ordinary snares. Mr Ingles, who founded Rosgill with Mr Peel, holds 1.3m shares and 520,000 nonbeneficial. He is not thought to have sold the stake but given an undertaking to do so. Other main institutional holders are ICFC with 26.34 per cent and Grapefield with 9 per cent, both believed to have sold.

Mr Ingles, who has been a non-executive director for several years, resigned last November *amid rumours of differences* of opinion with the board. ICFC, which had been acting as Rosgill's banker, also withdrew last November and indicated to County Bank, which stepped in as banker, that it wished to sell its stake. County Bank had been seeking to place ICFC's holding, at the same price as yesterday's offer.

Wellman falls into red as recession bites

By Rosemary Unsworth

Wellman Engineering, the thermal and mechanical group, slipped into losses at the halfway stage, as forecast by Mr Alan Hopkins, the chairman, at the annual meeting last September.

Pretax losses amounted to £407,000 compared with a profit of £545,000 last year and a full-year profit of £2m in 1980. Turnover during the six months to September 30, increased by 45 per cent from £11.8m to £17.3m but the difference was largely attributable to the inclusion of the American acquisition, Wellman Thermal Systems, for seven weeks. Volume was down substantially ing £204,000.

Interest charges accounted for £175,000 against £67,000 credit last time as overdrafts were used for the group's contracting business. Wellman was in credit at the end of the last financial year but it looks as if it will pay some interest charges at the year end.

Mr Hopkins said that the loss was a result of the world recession, the impact of which had become more serious in the industries the group served.

"Nevertheless the group would have broken even at its trading level in the period apart from regrettable redundancies costing £204,000".

"Orders are still difficult to obtain, although Wellman Furnaces are encouraged by their recent order worth £4.7m for 14 *metal decorating lines*", he added.

Group headquarters will move from Parnell House in London which was sold for £1.75m when new offices are found. Wellman will add any surplus less taxation, to shareholders funds, which would have amounted to £7.5m at the end of the interim stage if the sale had been completed. The proceeds, meanwhile, have been used to reduce short-term borrowings in the United States.

The interim dividend has been maintained at 2.28p gross and in the absence of unforeseen circumstances the final which last year was 2.5p gross is not at risk. However, Mr Hopkins said that the second half would show some improvement in trading based on the third quarter and current orders. Last September he indicated that the full year would be profitable.

Business appointments

Sir Robert Telford now chairman of Marconi

Sir Robert Telford has assumed the chairmanship of **The Marconi Company** and Mr A. S. Walsh has been made its managing director. Sir Robert, as a director of GEC and managing director of GEC-Marconi Electronics, is responsible for the management of the major electronics interests of The General Electric Company. Mr Arthur Walsh is now responsible within this main grouping for: Marconi Communication Systems, Marconi Radar Systems, Marconi Space and Defence Systems, Marconi Electronic Devices and McMichael. Dr I. MacBean is to succeed Mr Walsh as managing director of Marconi Space and Defence Systems.

Mr Allan Deeson has been named by **Thistle Hotels** as director of sales United Kingdom. Mr Bill Bailey is now director of international sales.

Mr K. C. Ragg is now a director of **Braham Millar Group** with specific responsibility for sales and marketing.

Mr Barry E. Hicks is now managing director of **Sten-Re** and its Lloyd's broking subsidiary Sten-Re (UK).

Mr L. C. Cottrell has been made deputy chairman of **Estates Property**.

Mr Stephen Mee becomes a director of **William Davis**, the Loughborough-based builders.

Mr W. J. Jenrick has been made managing director of **Cannon Industries**.

Mr Hugh Campbell is now chief executive of the leisure and travel division of the **Low and Bonar Group**, Dundee. He also becomes deputy chairman and managing director of Nairn Travel.

Mr Trevor Davies is now managing director, overseas travel, of **Thomas Cook Group**.

Mr D. B. Anderson becomes director of **Yorkshire Post Newspapers**.

Mr Arthur D. Harverd has been elected honorary treasurer of **The Textile Institute**.

Mr Don I. Shimmon has become managing director of **Hamilton Brothers Oil and Gas**. He succeeds Mr Robert Dyk, who has retired following 15 years with the company.

Mr Garth Scholfield joins the board of **Knight Ellis & Company** from February 2.

Mr John Curtis becomes director of **Prescot Underwriting and Management Services** with overall responsibility for claims matters in the company. Mr N. W. F. Parry has joined the board as director responsible for the marine and aviation department.

Mr David S. Barber has been made chairman of **Volumatic Limited** and Mr Michael J. Arthur becomes a director. The managing director of Volumatic, Mr Frank R. Pegg, continues as chief executive.

Briefly

Kennedy Brookes has concentrated its London administration at 316-318 Kings Road, London, SW3, and intends to dispose of its freehold property in Chiswick. Directors intend to use the money realized from this sale—about £170,000—to expand the interests in catering.

Merger cleared: following proposed merger is not to be referred to the Monopolies Commission: C. and J. Clark and K Shoes.

Local Authority Bonds: Interest rate on this week's issues of Local Authority Yearling bonds is 13⅞ per cent issue. Issue price is 100 (last week 13⅞ per cent at 100).

Leda Investment Trust: Gross revenue for year to December 31 £382,000 (£338,000). Post-tax revenue £216,000 (£190,000). Eps 4.32p (3.81p). Nav 71.9p (53.4p). Second int 2.8p net making 4.27p (3.78p).

Property Security Investment Tst: Gross rental income for half year to September 30, £2.33 (£2.13m). Pretax profit £176,000 (£161,000). Results exclude profits relating to property and share dealing activities. Interim dividend 0.5p (0.4p adjusted for scrip). Board expects a final dividend of 1.3p.

Bowater Building Products has sold brick and clay roofing tile works of Crossley Building Products at Broomfleet, North Humberside to Goxhill Tileries, of Barrow-upon-Humber.

Winterbottom Trust: Net asset value at close of business on January 16 was 379.6p, after deduction of prior charges at par, and 393.1p, after deduction of prior charges at market values.

Palmerston Inv Trust: Pretax surplus for the six months to September 30 £120,500 (deficit £4,000). Interim 0.85p gross.

John Crowther Group: L. Messel saysthat in accordance with standby offer made on January 12, 1981, to acquire any ordinary 25p shares held by outside shareholders at a price of 22p per share to the vendor (less normal dealing expenses), the total number of shares acquired was 2,000. As a result of transactions carried out last week, Company has been advised of the following shareholdings in excess of 5 per cent of the group's ordinary share capital: Mr Trevor Barker has 720,00 (20 per cent); Young Companies Investment Trust 200,000 (5.55 per cent); Cabot Recovery Trust (managed by Henderson Administration) 200,000 (5.55 per cent).

Bootham Engineers: Dividend held at 16.4p gross for year to October 31. Turnover, £7.88m (£6.67m). Pretax profit £415,000 (£796,000). Eps 26.65p (45.5p).

Group Investors have declared an interim dividend of 1.1p per share (1980 1.0p) for the year ended June 30, 1981. The dividend will be paid on March 6 to shareholders on the register at February 6. Full details of the results for thehalf-year ended December 31 will be circulated shortly.

Securities Trust of Scotland: The loan to the company by Manufacturers Hanover Trust Company of 600m yen will be repaid on January 22, 1981. In its place the company has arranged two loans from the Royal Bank of Scotland, of 500m yen each for one and two years at interest rates of 9 and 9C per cent respectively.

Stag Line hints at counter bid

Directors of Stag Line the North Shields shipping firm currently on the receiving end of a £4.4m takeover offer, yesterday hinted at the possibility of a rival bidder.

The group has already received a 355p a share offer from Hunting Gibson,

CYCLICAL INDICATORS FOR THE UK ECONOMY

The following table is based on the CSO corporate indices of the business cycle in the United Kingdom published yesterday.

	Longer lending (4 indicators)	Shorter lending (5 indicators)	Coincident (6 indicators)	Lagging (5 indicators)
1980				
Jan	105.7	109.3	103.7	93.5
Feb	107.3	108.9	101.9	91.9
March	105.8	107.1	99.4	91.0
April	104.8	105.2	96.9	89.8
May	103.6	102.2	95.0	88.9
June	104.6	99.9	93.2	87.3
July	105.4	99.0	91.2	85.4
Aug	106.3	98.3	88.6	83.2
Sept	107.0	97.8	87.3	82.2
Oct	108.0	97.4	85.4	79.0
Nov	108.9	94.2	84.9	75.6
Dec	109.5			73.3

Two funds added to Czar stable

By Our Financial Staff

Two more oil and gas exploration financing vehicles are trying to raise a total of Canadian $30m (£10.5m) in Europe and the Far East for the North American stable that has already given birth to Shackleton, Europa and Hansa Petroleum and raised over £15m (C$20m) since last August. Half of that money came from British investors.

The newcomers, Appian Energy and Humboldt, are intended to be the last in this wave of financing inspired by Scottish geologist Mr Bob Lamond, president of the flagship of the network of companies, Czar Resources. Mr Lamond said yesterday that the next stage would be to raise new capital for the existing five funds.

Like their predecessors, the capital raised by Appian and Humboldt will finance oil and gas wells drilled in Canada and the United States. In Appian's case the operator will be Tiber, of which Mr Lamond owns 22 per cent. Humboldt will provide finance for Ravenna Resources and Laurier Resources. Mr Lamond owns over half of Ravenna and about 30 per cent of Laurier.

Half of Appian's C$15m capital is being raised in central Europe and the rest will come equally from Britain and Hongkong. Humboldt, originally intended to be a C$12m fund but now also raising $C15m, aims to raise C$4m in Canada, C$3m in West Germany, C$3.5m in Switzerland and C$4.5m here.

International

Paine Webber ahead

Paine Webber, the American merchant bank, yesterday reported net earnings of $10.2m (£4.2m) for the first quarter to December 31, against net earnings of $6.9m last year.

This year's figure included a contribution from Blyth Eastman Dillon.

French failures up

French corporate failures, including insolvencies, liquidations and legal settlements, increased by 9.5 per cent last year to an unadjusted 17,375 from 15,863 in 1979, the Statistical Institute said.

Industrial firms accounted for 3,390 failures, an increase of 14.8 per cent.

People's Insurance

Total 1980 profits, including investment and interest for the People's Insurance Company of China rose to the equivalent of about £16.6m from £12m in 1979, the company said in Peking.

In international business premium income rose to some £63.5m from £46.9m. The domestic insurance market, revived early last year after suspension since 1958, brought premium income of £55.2m.

Hampton Trust rights issue

By Catherine Gunn

Investment group Hampton Trust is to raise £830,000 in a one-for-eight rights issue to finance oil exploration interests in America and Australia, and its potential North Sea interests.

The rights issue price of 45p a share is at a 28 per cent discount to last night's share price of 62½p. It was pitched this low to reflect a continuing delay in Hampton's projected acquisition of a 3.5 per cent stake in Permit EP100 in the Woodada field in Australia's North Perth Basin. The purchase should have oeen completed by December 31, but the Australian vendors agreed to extend the closing date to February 28. One vendor has underwritten 10 per cent of the present rights issue.

The delay reflects the fact that the operators of Permit EP100 have not yet finalized their operating agreement. The Foreign Investment Review Board of Australia (FIRB) needs to see this agreement before it will consent to Hampton's acquisition of the 3.5 per cent stake from Australian holders. Normally foreign investors may hold up to 50 per cent of an Australian operation; but the chief operator of EP100 is Hughes and Hughes of Texas with 65 per cent.

Hughes and Hughes is willing in principle to consent to Hampton's taking a stake as long as that interest does not upset its own position; and the FIRB will only rule on that once it has seen the operating agreement—which is not ready.

If necessary, Hampton Trust will seek a further extension of the deadline for acquiring the stake from the Australian vendors, who will exchange it for a guaranteed 9.14 per cent of Hampton's equity.

If permission for Hampton to complete the acquisition is finally forthcoming, Hampton will be committed to putting up A$170,000 (£830,000) of the initial production costs which will come from this rights issue. A further US$160,000 (£65,000) is earmarked for a share in two wells to be drilled in a known production area in Ohio. Hampton is also a member of the Oxoco syndicate currently waiting to hear whether it has been awarded a licence in the North Sea in the seventh round applications.

Rugby Portland US purchase

Rugby Portland Cement has made its first venture into the United States with the news that it has purchased for $5.1m (£2.12m) a one-third interest in US Cement Inc, a company formed recently by IFI International SA to acquire the total share capital of Hercules Cement.

One-third of the shares of US Cement will be held by Rugby, one-fifth by Unicem, the Italian cement group, while the balance will be retained by IFINT.

IFINT is an associate of Istituto Finanziario Industriale SpA of Turin, of which the Agnelli and Nasi families are the main shareholders, while it will be recalled that Rugby is already in association with Unicem through Compagnie Financiere pour la Recherche et le Developpment of Luxembourg.

Hercules Cement is a single plant operation, with raw materials located near the plant,

Enserch to defend action brought by Davy

Following Monday's announcement by Davy Corp, that it had taken legal action in the United States against Enserch, counsel for Enserch state that in their opinion the allegations are without merit. The suit appears to be a delaying tactic by Davy which is not in the best interest of Davy's shareholders, and Enserch will defend this suit vigorously, he added.

George Blair reduces its loss

George Blair, which is listed on the over the counter market reports a turnover for the 26 weeks to September 27 steady at £5.2m but its trading loss has been cut from £265,000 to £183,000.

The board says that the trading result is much as expected, but the burden of redundancy payments and interest charges was heavier than anticipated.

Demand for group products has continued to deteriorate and further redundancies have been necessary. The company continues to operate at a very low level of output. Most of its customers appear to have completed de-stocking.

This factor together with persistent sales efforts, could cause a slight upturn in trade. Trading results for the second half should be marginally better than the first half, with most improvement coming in last quarter.

Brent Chemicals acquisition

Brent Chemicals Corporation, a wholly owned subsidiary of Brent Chemicals International has acquired for $1.27m (£530,000) Uresco Inc, a Californian Corporation, subject to the approval of the commissioner of Corporations of the State of California. Uresco makes and markets non-destructive testing and aerospace maintenance chemicals and systems, and is based in a suburb of Los Angeles.

Orders worth £16m for R M Douglas

R. M. Douglas Construction, the Birmingham-based international contractor, has announced the award of contracts totalling £16.1m.

The largest of these is for £13.9m for the construction of the A467 road from Crumlin to Aberbeeg for the Gwent County Council.

Arab stake in Evered raised to 29 pc

By Our Financial Staff

Arab shareholders in Evered, the loss-making engineering group, have increased their stake to 29.95 per cent—just short of the level which would trigger a full bid under takeover rules.

Evered is already subject of a proposed 22p a share bid from Francis Industries. However, the latest share purchases by Zahid Industries and Investments and associates and Mohamed Mahmoud Badr were made at 25p.

Kangra raises Renwick stake

By Our Financial Staff

Kangra International Holdings the mysterious Hongkong-based "shelf" company, yesterday bought a further 4.99 per cent in fuel distribution to travel agents group Renwick, known in the market as the "5 per cent a wee kstock".

It takes Kangra's holding to 27.51 per cent, just under the 30 per cent bid trigger under the Takeover Code. The holding now tops the 22.5 per cent of Renwick held by six unrelated clients of the Swiss Uto Bank, which has 200,000 shares itself.

Bank Base Rates

ABN Bank	14%
Barclays	14%
BCCI	14%
Consolidated Crdts	14%
C. Hoare & Co	*14%
Lloyds Bank	14%
Midland Bank	14%
Nat Westminster	14%
Rossminster	14%
TSB	14%
Williams and Glyn's	14%

* 7 day deposit on sums of £10,000 and under 11½%, up to £50,000 12%, over £50,000 12½%.

Mergers and acquisitions

How to save an ailing offshoot—sell it

Business immobility prevents many companies from putting "half sour" subsidiaries voluntarily on to the market. If companies were more skilful in selling their dull subsidiaries instead of waiting for mounting losses or closure, the trade in hive-offs could lead to a minor industrial revival in Britain.

With years of analysis into the trends of mergers and acquisitions in the United Kingdom, Mr Nicholas Stacey, chairman of Chesham Amalgamations & Investments, says that companies faced with dismal performances from hard-hit subsidiaries sell them only as a very last resort. Boardroom executives should rid themselves as quickly as possible of "half sour" subsidiaries, he says. The subsidiary should be sold to someone with both the faith and ability to run it on a shoestring.

"It requires as much entrepreneurial skill by management to sell their minnows for better use under new hands as it does to acquire companies. And the time spent by management trying to pull a subsidiary around which is not making a return on capital employed—maybe five to seven years—is unbelievable", he added. "If only they could be converted to sell, and to realize that their *amour propre* is not in danger of being dented by doing so"

Trade in hive-offs—a move Mr Stacey would applaud for its potential to strengthen Britain's industrial base—has held steady in the last 12 years. Apart from the freak years of 1971 and 1973, about 130 hive-offs are sold annually. But it has not shown a spectacular rise in the last year.

The release of unsuccessful subsidiaries on to the market, which now offers more scope for risk-taking investors because of the increase in capital development firms, enhances a healthy reconstruction. Mr Stacey's study says it is difficult to know how many hive-offs have been sold to other companies, or to individual entrepreneurs, but in general there has been little progress in encouraging companies to sell subsidiaries.

As a proportion of all acquisitions, the number of hive-offs has been hovering at around 22 per cent in recent years and their value makes up 12 per cent of the total.

Chesham completed fewer mergers in 1980 than in the previous year and this was also reflected in the value of the mergers transacted. Chesham trading mirrors the national experience. For example, the company saw 20 acquisitions compared with 24 in 1979, and at a national level the total number recorded was 452—a fall of 82 on 1979. The average value of Chesham transactions was around £1m, compared with £3.32m for all mergers counted by the Department of Trade. The total value of last year's acquisitions is £1,500m at current prices compared with £1,656m in 1979 and £1,139m in 1978 when 567 were recorded.

Chesham note that the Government's monetarist policy, far from unleashing a new merger mania, has only accentuated the downward trend in acquisitions over the last twelve years. The current figures conceal the declining real value of merger transactions. Chesham's report contains tables with the values for 1969 to 1980 at prices adjusted to the Retail Price Index.

These show that the real "deflated" value of all acquisitions last year was £383m and not £1,500m. In 1979 the value was £485m—not £1,656m—and this was the highest figure for seven years. Even then, this is only marginally over half the value of the 1973 total which, in real terms, was £932.3m. In 1972, one of the freak years, a total of £2,001m was recorded.

The average current value of independent firms acquired—this does not include hived-off subsidiaries—appears to have increased from £1.25m in 1969 to £3.2m in 1980, but again, if the results are deflated by the RPI, the actual value is lower at £850,000 last year. The value of hived-off subsidiaries, by deflated prices, for 1980 was £490,000 compared with a current price of £1.9m.

Of the completed acquisitions handled by Chesham, most activity was in mechanical engineering followed by the service trades. Seven acquisitions were reported within the engineering sector, three in packaging and distribution and two in both the electronics and the leisure spheres.

During the year Chesham has gathered information from buyers and sellers in more than 1,000 companies on their attitudes to current trading. The ten Chesham executives compiled a questionnaire which included questions such as whether there had been more prospective vendors because trading conditions had become more difficult, because profits had declined, because of lack of liquidity, or because life for the owner had become more difficult.

The responses, say Chesham, showed caution on the part of businessmen, whether buying or selling. But there was no trace of anxiety from industrialists wishing to sell their companies in the present climate. However, the replies did indicate that prospective sellers are holding on to their companies and waiting for recovery in the hope of a higher price.

Margareta Pagano

The Over-the-Counter Market

1980/81 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div(p)	Yld %	P/E
75	39	Airsprung Group	65	—	6.7	10.3	5.8
40	21	Armitage & Rhodes	40	—	1.4	3.5	16.5
192	92½	Bardon Hill	189	—	9.7	5.1	7.1
87	40	County Cars Pref	40	—	—	—	—
98	88	Deborah Services	95	—	5.5	5.7	4.7
126	88	Frank Horsell	115	−1	6.4	5.6	3.6
110	56	Frederick Parker	56	—	11.0	19.6	2.6
110	74	George Blair	77	—	3.1	4.0	—
110	59	Jackson Group	108	—	6.9	6.3	4.1
124	103	James Burrough	119	—	7.9	6.6	9.7
334	244	Robert Jenkins	334	—	31.3	9.4	—
53	50	Scruttons 'A'	53	—	5.3	10.0	3.8
224	216	Torday Limited	217	−1	13.1	7.0	3.7
23	10	Twinlock Ord	12½	−½	—	—	—
90	69	Twinlock 15% ULS	77	—	15.0	19.4	—
55	35	Unilock Holdings	36	—	3.0	8.3	5.5
102	81	Walter Alexander	101	—	5.7	5.6	5.6
255	181	W. S. Yeates	254	—	12.1	4.7	4.1

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MARKET REPORTS

Commodities

Discount market

Seasonal tax flow drained funds out of the system yesterday, the revenue intake exceeding by a large amount the disbursements from the Exchequer.

Also against the market was a small figure for Treasury Bill take-up. There were no plus items of any consequence. Today also *promises to be a heavy day for* tax payments.

Fall at Countryside Properties

Although turnover at Countryside Properties rose from £12m to £14.5m for the year to September 30, pretax profits fell from £1.3m to £903,000. Interest took £932,000 against £641,000. Earnings a share eased from 20.7p to 13.6p while the dividend is held at 5p gross.

The board says that prospects for the current year are encouraging with reservations and contracted sales of housing and commercial property totalling over £9m. This is the highest forward sales position yet achieved by the group. The level of profits, however, will much depend upon the timing of the sale completions of commercial property schemes which are now forming a larger proportion of group's business.

Foreign exchange report

Foreign exchange markets spent another pretty quiet session yesterday, waiting for the release of the American hostages in Iran and for an idea of what Iran intends to do with the funds freed by the United States.

Sterling, expected to attract part of the Iranian money, raced ahead to 2.4250 against the dollar in early deals. However, the rate drifted down to 2.4195 at the close for a net gain of 1¼.

The effective exchange rate index ended 0.1 higher at 80.2, after 80.1 at mid-day and 80.2 at the opening.

The dollar finished on a rather *mixed note* against continental currencies. German marks firmed from 2.0075 to 2.0060 and Swiss francs edged up from 1.8270 to 1.8252.

Airflow Streamlines: Temple Bar Investment Trust is no longer in*terested in 500,000 shares* (7.86 per cent).

Sterling: Spot and Forward

	Market rates (day's range) January 20	Market rates (close) January 20	1 month	3 months
New York	$2.4070-4250	$2.4190-4200	1.12-1.22c disc	2.78-2.88c disc
Montreal	$2.8650-8830	$2.8780-8790	0.85-0.95c disc	2.10-2.25c disc
Amsterdam	5.24-28fl	5.26½-27½fl	2½-1½c prem	5¼-4¼c prem
Brussels	77.50-78.15f	78.00-10f	23-13c prem	46-36c prem
Copenhagen	14.83-92k	14.91-92k	205-15ore prem	25-210ore prem
Dublin	1.2920-3010p	1.2970-2980p	15-par p	25-5p prem
Frankfurt	4.81½-86m	4.83½-84½m	2⅞-1⅞pf prem	6¼-5¼pf prem
Lisbon	128.20-129.90e	129.30-70e	02-70c disc	40-200c disc
Madrid	193.95-195.20p	194.85-95p	20-80c disc	205-270c disc
Milan	2290-2307lr	2306-07lr	2½-4½lr disc	18-21lr disc
Oslo	12.61-68k	12.67-68k	480-305ore prem	790-615ore prem
Paris	11.16-20f	11.18½-19½f	4¼-3¼c prem	9-8c prem
Stockholm	10.68-76k	10.74½-75½k	995-1125ore disc	2515-2660ore disc
Tokyo	482-90y	485-86y	290-215y prem	705-635y prem
Vienna	34.10-40sch	34.35-40sch	11-8gro prem	28-23gro prem
Zurich	4.37½-41½f	4.39½-40½f	3⅞-2⅞c prem	9½-8½c prem

Effective exchange rate compared to December 21, 1971, was up 0.1% at 80.2%.

Other Markets

Australia	2.0315-2.0465
Bahrein	2.4075-2.4170
Finland	9.3530-9.3930
Greece	112.95-114.95
Hongkong	12.4680-12.5080
Iran	Not available
Kuwait	0.6510-0.6540
Malaysia	5.3490-5.3790
Mexico	55.65-57.15
New Zealand	2.5010-2.5210
Saudi Arabia	8.0455-8.0755
Singapore	4.9945-5.0245
South Africa	1.7930-1.8130

Indices

	Bank of England Index	Morgan Guaranty Changes %
Sterling	80.2	−24.1
US dollar	88.8	−7.3
Canadian dollar	79.6	−18.6
Schilling	146.1	+21.9
Belgian franc	110.8	+10.5
Danish kroner	100.8	−4.3
Deutsche mark	145.2	+39.1
Swiss franc	191.8	+75.0
Guilder	122.3	+17.1
French franc	75.8	−8.3
Lira	49.5	−52.8
Yen	146.7	+43.8

Based on trade weighted changes from Washington agreement December, 1971.
(Bank of England Index 100).

Dollar Spot Rates

* Ireland	1.8560-1.8580
† Canada	1.1898-1.1901
Netherlands	2.1775-2.1790
Belgium	32.25-32.28
Denmark	6.1640-6.1690
West Germany	2.0055-2.0065
Portugal	53.53-53.63
Spain	80.55-80.65
Italy	953.00-953.50
Norway	5.2375-5.2425
France	4.6360-4.6380
Sweden	4.4390-4.4440
Japan	200.75-200.95
Austria	14.17-14.19
Switzerland	1.8245-1.8265

* Ireland quoted in US currency.
† Canada $1 : US $0.8391-0.8394

Money Market Rates

Bank of England MLR 14%
(Last changed 24/11/80).
Clearing Banks Base Rate 14%

Discount Mkt Loans %
Overnight: High 14 Low 13½
Week Fixed: 13⅝

Treasury Bills (Dis%)

Buying		Selling	
2 months	12⅞	2 months	12¾
3 months	12⅞	3 months	12¹³⁄₁₆

Prime Bank Bills (Dis%) Trades (Dis%)

2 months	13⅝-13¹⁷⁄₃₂	3 months	14
3 months	13¹⁵⁄₃₂-13⁷⁄₁₆	4 months	13¾
4 months	13⅛-13	6 months	13½
6 months	12⅞-12¾		

Local Authority Bonds

1 month	15¾-15¼	7 months	13⅞-13½
2 months	15¼-14¾	8 months	13⅞-13½
3 months	14½-14	9 months	13¾-13½
4 months	14¼-13¾	10 months	13¾-13½
5 months	14-13⅝	11 months	13¾-13½
6 months	13⅞-13½	12 months	13¾-13½

Secondary Mkt. ECD Rates (%)

1 month	14⁹⁄₁₆-14⁵⁄₁₆	6 months	13¹³⁄₁₆-13⁹⁄₁₆
3 months	14¼-14	12 months	13¹⁄₁₆-12¹³⁄₁₆

Local Authority Market (%)

2 days	14	3 months	14⅛
7 days	14½-14¼	6 months	13⅞-13¾
1 month	14½-14¼	1 year	13⅝-13½

Interbank Market (%)

Overnight: Open 14 Close 13½

1 week	14¼-14	6 months	13½-13⅜
1 month	14½-14¼	9 months	13⁷⁄₁₆-13⁵⁄₁₆
3 months	14¼-14⅛	12 months	13⅜-13¼

First Class Finance Houses (Mkt. Rate%)
3 months 14¼ 6 months 14

Finance House Base Rate 15½%

EMS Currency Rates

	ECU central rates	currency against ECU	% change from central rate†	% change adjusted†*	divergence limit % plus/minus
Belgian franc	39.7897	41.5456	+4.41	+0.81	1.53
Danish krone	7.7236	7.93910	+2.79	−0.81	1.64
German D-mark	2.48208	2.58051	+3.97	+0.37	1.125
French franc	5.84700	5.97315	+2.16	−1.44	1.3557
Dutch guilder	2.74362	2.80677	+2.30	−1.30	1.512
Irish punt	0.668201	0.691956	+3.56	−0.04	1.665
Italian lira	1157.79	1225.90	+5.89	+2.29	4.08

† changes are for the ECU therefore positive change denotes weak currency.
* adjusted for sterling's weight in the ECU, and for the lira's wider divergence limits.
Adjustment calculated by The Times.

Euro-$ Deposits

(%) calls, 19¾-20¼; seven days, 19½-20; one month, 19½-19¾; three months, 18⅞-18¹³⁄₁₆; six months, 17⅝-17⅞.

Gold

Gold fixed: am, $563.5 (an ounce); pm, $562.00 close, $563.50.
Krugerrand (per coin): $581-583 (£240-241.5).
Sovereigns (new): $142-144 (£58.75-59.75).

Wall Street

New York, Jan 20.—The Stock market was caught in a downdraft circulating around the release of the American hostages and the inauguration of President Reagan and suffered its worst fall in more than five weeks in moderate trading.

The D-J industrial average dropped 20.31 points, its biggest *drop since* December 8, and declines led advances three to one as volume expanded to 42,000,000 shares from 36,470,000 yesterday.

Experts said investors were disappointed that President Reagan's inaugural address was not more specific and they were also discouraged that the market did not rally on news of the release of the hostages.

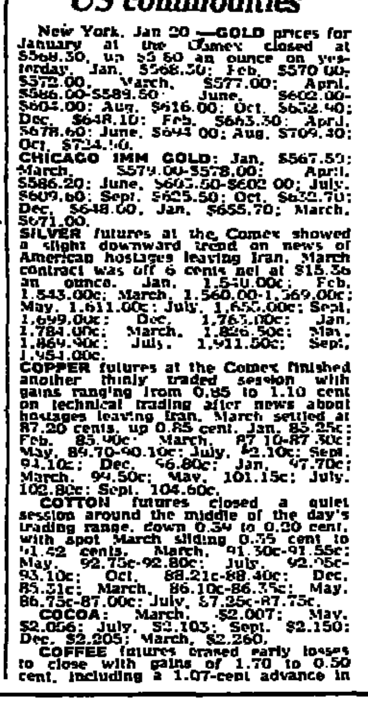
Defence and oil stocks were two of the hardest hit groups and high technology issues were also weak. Analysts said some investors had hoped to hear Mr Reagan talk about specific tax cut measures and defence spending plans.

Among the oils, active Occidental Petroleum fell two to 31⅞, Mobil three to 78⅝; Exxon 1¼ to 78¼, Texaco 1⅞ to 44½, Standard Oil Co of California 4⅞ to 97½, Superior Oil 9¾ to 198¼ and Sedco 6⅞ to 86⅝.

In the defence group, Raytheon fell 2¼ to 101⅝, Litton Industries ¾ to 79½, Teledyne 4¼ to 197⅞, General Dynamics one to 37⅞ and United Technologies 1¼ to 57⅝.

Burroughs reported lower fourth-quarter net and eased ⅞ to 49¼.

US commodities



New York, Jan 20.—GOLD prices for January at the Comex closed at $568.30, up $5.60 an ounce on yesterday. Jan, $568.30; Feb, $570.00-$572.00; March, $577.00; April, $586.00-$589.50; June, $602.00-$604.00; Aug, $616.00; Oct, $632.40; Dec, $648.10; Feb, $663.30; April, $678.60; June, $694.00; Aug, $709.30; Oct, $724.50.

CHICAGO IMM GOLD: Jan, $567.50; March, $579.00-$578.00; April, $586.20; June, $603.50-$602.00; July, $609.60; Sept, $625.50; Oct, $632.70; Dec, $648.60; Jan, $655.70; March, $671.00.

SILVER futures at the Comex showed a slight downward trend on news of American hostages leaving Iran. March contract ...

Authorized Units, Insurance & Offshore Funds

Stock Exchange Prices

Firm trend continues

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Jan 12. Dealings End, Jan 23. § Contango Day, Jan 26. Settlement Day, Feb 2

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

BRITISH FUNDS

1980/81 High	Low	Stock		Price	Ch'ge	Int. only Yield	Gross Red. Yield
SHORTS							
99$\frac{5}{16}$	89	Treas	9$\frac{1}{2}$% 1981	99$\frac{5}{16}$	+$\frac{1}{16}$	9.919	13.490
95	91	Exch	8$\frac{1}{4}$% 1981	95	+$\frac{1}{16}$	8.419	13.706
99$\frac{5}{16}$	91	Exch	9$\frac{1}{2}$% 1981	98$\frac{5}{16}$	+$\frac{1}{16}$	9.676	13.242
94$\frac{5}{8}$	85$\frac{1}{2}$	Exch	3% 1981	94$\frac{5}{8}$	● ..	3.170	12.989
100$\frac{1}{4}$	95$\frac{9}{16}$	Exch	12$\frac{3}{4}$% 1981	99$\frac{15}{16}$	+$\frac{1}{16}$	12.758	12.793
96$\frac{7}{16}$	88	Treas	8$\frac{1}{2}$% 1980-82	96$\frac{7}{16}$	..	8.814	12.470
93$\frac{1}{4}$	81$\frac{1}{4}$	Treas	3% 1982	93$\frac{1}{4}$	● ..	3.200	9.301
102$\frac{1}{4}$	90$\frac{1}{2}$	Treas	14% 1982	100$\frac{7}{8}$	..	13.879	13.160
94$\frac{5}{16}$	85$\frac{3}{4}$	Treas	8$\frac{1}{4}$% 1982	94$\frac{1}{16}$	−$\frac{1}{16}$	8.771	12.985
94$\frac{1}{16}$	87$\frac{3}{4}$	Exch	9$\frac{1}{4}$% 1982	94$\frac{1}{16}$	−$\frac{1}{16}$	9.845	13.322
93$\frac{1}{4}$	84$\frac{1}{8}$	Exch	8$\frac{3}{4}$% 1983	93$\frac{1}{16}$	−$\frac{1}{8}$	9.401	12.675
87$\frac{1}{4}$	76$\frac{1}{2}$	Exch	3% 1983	86$\frac{3}{4}$	+$\frac{1}{8}$	3.456	10.233
98$\frac{1}{8}$	85$\frac{1}{4}$	Treas	12% 1983	97$\frac{1}{4}$	−$\frac{1}{16}$	12.277	13.240
93$\frac{1}{2}$	84$\frac{1}{8}$	Treas	9$\frac{1}{2}$% 1983	92$\frac{1}{4}$	−$\frac{1}{16}$	9.974	12.759
102$\frac{1}{8}$	94$\frac{1}{4}$	Exch	13$\frac{1}{2}$% 1983	100$\frac{7}{8}$	..	13.383	13.104
93$\frac{1}{4}$	84$\frac{1}{4}$	Exch	10% 1983	92$\frac{3}{4}$	−$\frac{1}{16}$	10.781	13.084
84$\frac{15}{16}$	76$\frac{1}{4}$	Fund	5$\frac{1}{2}$% 1982-84	84$\frac{15}{16}$	+$\frac{1}{16}$	6.475	11.613
97$\frac{1}{16}$	88$\frac{7}{8}$	Exch	11$\frac{1}{4}$% 1984	95$\frac{5}{16}$	−$\frac{1}{16}$	11.804	13.166
104$\frac{3}{16}$	91$\frac{1}{2}$	Exch	14% 1984	102$\frac{1}{4}$	+$\frac{1}{16}$	13.692	13.134
78$\frac{1}{4}$	68$\frac{1}{4}$	Exch	3% 1984	76$\frac{3}{4}$	..	3.910	10.586
96$\frac{1}{8}$	88	Treas	12% 1984	96$\frac{3}{4}$	−$\frac{1}{16}$	12.403	13.121
106$\frac{1}{2}$	97$\frac{7}{8}$	Treas	15% 1985	105$\frac{5}{16}$	● ..	14.109	12.972
73$\frac{1}{2}$	68$\frac{15}{16}$	Treas	3% 1985	73$\frac{1}{2}$	..	4.089	10.873
MEDIUMS							
103$\frac{1}{4}$	90$\frac{1}{2}$	Exch	12$\frac{1}{4}$% 1985	97$\frac{1}{8}$	..	12.596	13.019
97$\frac{1}{8}$	93$\frac{1}{2}$	Exch	11$\frac{1}{2}$% 1986	93$\frac{3}{8}$	● ..	12.405	13.225
89$\frac{7}{8}$	78$\frac{7}{8}$	Treas	8$\frac{1}{2}$% 1984-86	85$\frac{5}{8}$	..	9.988	12.336
105$\frac{1}{8}$	90$\frac{5}{8}$	Exch	13$\frac{1}{2}$% 1987	99$\frac{1}{4}$	● ..	13.302	13.442
81$\frac{1}{2}$	70$\frac{1}{4}$	Fund	6$\frac{1}{2}$% 1985-87	79$\frac{1}{4}$	..	8.355	11.560
97$\frac{1}{4}$	91$\frac{1}{8}$	Treas	12% 1987	95	..	12.992	13.762
83	71$\frac{1}{8}$	Treas	7$\frac{3}{4}$% 1985-88	77$\frac{1}{2}$	● ..	9.999	12.674
64$\frac{1}{4}$	54$\frac{7}{8}$	Trans	3% 1978-88	62	..	4.953	10.528
95	82$\frac{3}{4}$	Treas	11$\frac{1}{2}$% 1989	86$\frac{7}{8}$	● ..	13.090	14.077
65$\frac{1}{4}$	57$\frac{3}{4}$	Treas	5% 1986-89	64$\frac{1}{2}$	..	7.215	11.900

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL

A—B

C—E

F—H

I—L

M—N

O—S

T—Z

LONGS

COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

DOLLAR STOCKS

BANKS AND DISCOUNTS

BREWERIES AND DISTILLERIES

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

INSURANCE

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

SHIPPING

MINES

OIL

PROPERTY

RUBBER

TEA

MISCELLANEOUS

RECENT ISSUES

RIGHTS ISSUES

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'roperty

'ity homes 'ommand ' premium

It must be with a mixture of ıtimism and ıntuition that tate agents decide asking prices residential property, pecially at the upper end of e market.

Capital cities the world over mmand a premium for good ıts and houses, and this gulf tween city and country prices well demonstrated in London the moment.

In the last few days Jackson-ops & Staff has been instructed to sell 9 Cheyne Walk, London, SW3, which runs along the embankment at the southerly tip of Chelsea.

Few details are available yet, but it is a substantial property, on four floors. The agent has not announced an asking price for the 49-year lease, but says a substantial figure is being sought. The property enjoys south facing views over the river Thames towards Cadogan Pier and Albert Bridge.

A clue to the sort of price such properties command comes with a flat which is for sale round the corner in Cheyne Gardens, also for sale through Jackson-Stops.

This is a penthouse flat with a master bedroom and two further bedrooms with an additional bathroom. Not many flats in the area can boast a 32ft drawing room leading to a west facing roof terrace.

The agents say that the best London flats always fetch a premium price because for many people a light and spacious flat can have all the advantages of a house without the obvious disadvantages, such as security and maintenance problems.

Offers around £225,000 are being sought for the remainder of the flat's 46 year lease.

This compares dramatically with a third offering from the firm, a castle for £125,000, which is on the market through Jackson-Stops Chester office. The castle overlooks the Clwyd Valley at Dyserth.

Dating back to Henry III, Dyserth Castle originally was built in 1241 on a strategic hill-top fortified by a moat and vallum. Although it sounds terribly grand the castle is not of the windswept Scottish variety. It has seven bedrooms and three main reception rooms, and is set in six acres of grounds.

The original castle was destroyed by Prince Llewellyn of Gruffyd only 22 years after its construction and all that remains of its thirteenth-century links is the outline of the former moat.

The present house's origins are Elizabethan, and it has been built mainly of stone.

Back in the south east, Knight Frank & Rutley is handling the sale of a house belonging to Mr Macdonald Hastings, the author and broadcaster.

Known as Brown's Farm, at Old Basing, near Basingstoke, the house is believed to date from the 17th century and is set in four acres of gardens.

The main building has three reception rooms, and five bedrooms along with two bathrooms and a spacious nursery. In addition there is a cottage with three bedrooms, a period thatched barn, thatched garages and stabling.

The property was once part of Basing House which was destroyed by Cromwell after a three-year siege.

It has a swimming pool, paddock, productive fruit garden and well stocked kitchen garden. The agent is seeking offers over £165,000.

Looking as though it should have a long history is the Thatched House on the Knott Park Estate at Oxshott village in Surrey. In fact although it has a genuine thatched roof and is constructed partly of mellow brick and timber, Thatched House was built during the war.

Savills' London office, together with Mays of Oxshott, is asking £259,000 for the house which has a master bedroom suite, a guest suite and three further bedrooms.

It has been extensively modernized and has an indoor heated swimming pool with bar and sauna. To make it even more desirable, Thatched House also has staff accommodation consisting of a bed sitting room, kitchen and bathroom.

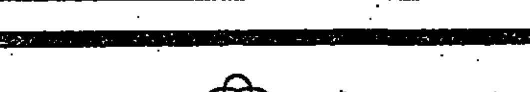
Baron Phillips



Overlooking the Clwyd Valley The Castle, Dyserth, has historical connexions dating back to Henry III. The asking price is £125,000.



Residential property





The New Homes Feature continues on pages 24 and 25

LEGAL NOTICES

No 002189 of 1980

In the High Court of Justice Chancery Division Companies Court In the Matter of ENFIELD MECHANICAL ENGINEERS Limited and in the Matter of THE COMPANIES ACT 1948.

I, Sydney Brewin of Hall Place Cottage, South Street, Havant, Hampshire, Chartered Accountant, hereby give notice that by Order of the High Court dated the 3rd day of October 1980, I was appointed LIQUIDATOR of the above named Company.

All persons having in their possession any of the effects of the Company must deliver them to me and all debts due to the Company must be paid to me.

Creditors who have not yet proved their debts should forward their claim to me.

Dated this 30th day of December 1980.

S. BREWIN, Liquidator.

PUBLIC NOTICES

PASTORAL MEASURE 1968

The Church Commissioners have prepared a draft amending redundancy scheme providing for demolishing the remaining part of the redundant church of Bournemouth, Holy Trinity (Winchester diocese); and draft pastoral schemes providing for declaring redundant parts of the parish church of St John the Baptist, Hove (Chichester diocese) and appropriating those parts to use for parochial purposes and for a day centre respectively; and for declaring redundant the churches of St Mary, North Cockerington; St John the Baptist, Yarburgh; and St Edith, Little Carlton (Lincoln diocese). Copies of the draft schemes may be obtained from the Commissioners at 1 Millbank, London, SW1P 3JZ, to whom any representations should be sent within 28 days of the publication of this notice.

DIVIDENDS DECLARATION OF

Canadian Overseas Packaging Industries Limited (Incorporated in Canada): STOCK DIVIDEND ANNOUNCEMENT

At a meeting of the Board held on 2nd October 1980, the Directors declared a Stock Dividend on the common shares of the Corporation on the basis of one common share for every four common shares held, payable to shareholders of record on 5th February 1981. The issued and fully paid common share capital of the Corporation will thus be increased from 14,062,500 no par value shares to 17,578,125 no par value shares and to achieve this the Directors will transfer from retained earnings the sum of $7,031,250 (Canadian Funds) to the issued share capital account.

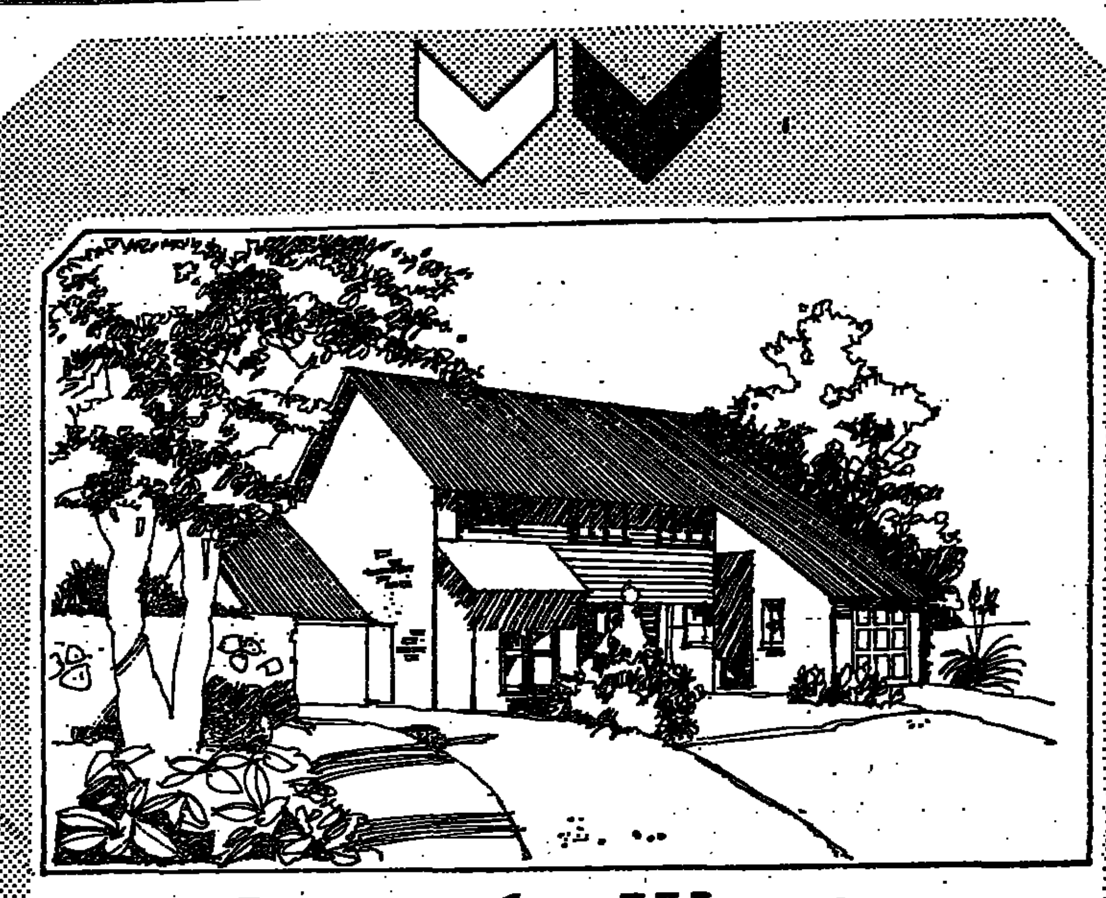
The additional shares will rank pari passu in all respects with the existing outstanding common shares and applications will be made to the Stock Exchanges concerned for listing purposes.

Definitive share certificates and fraction proceeds will be posted on 26th February 1981 and it is expected that Stock Exchange dealings in the new shares will commence on 9th February 1981.

By order of the Board
M. C. JOHNSTON, Secretary.
January 20 1981.
PO Box 7289, Postal Station A, Saint John, New Brunswick, Canada W2L 4B6.



PROPERTIES UNDER £35,000



Homes by Wiggins

For further details contact our office nearest to the development or write to Wiggins Homes, 57 Hart Road, Thundersley, Benfleet, Essex SS7 3PD.

AVON
BRISTOL
Det 3 bed Houses
From £27,950
BERKSHIRE
WANTAGE
Det 3 & 4 bed Houses
From £29,500
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PAR
Det 2, 3 & 4 bed Houses & Bungs. From £25,750
HELSTON
Det 3 bed Houses & Bungs.
From £22,450
STITHIANS
Det 3 bed Houses & Bungs
From £22,000
PORT ISAAC
Det 3 bed Bungalows
From £29,950
DEVON
BRIXHAM
Det Houses & Bungs
From £29,250
CHULMLEIGH
Det 2 & 3 bed Bungs
From £23,750
PUDDINGTON
3 & 4 bed Houses & Bungs
From £28,500.
EXMOUTH
Det 2 bed Bungs
From £41,950
UFFCULME
3 & 4 bed Houses & Bungs
Available shortly
CHRISTOW
3 & 4 bed Houses
Available shortly
DORSET
WIMBORNE
Det 3 & 4 bed Houses
From £32,500
ESSEX
THUNDERSLEY
Broadlands
Flats from £19,250
The Grove
Det 3 & 4 bed Houses & Bungalows
From £68,000
HAMPSHIRE
WINCHESTER
3 bed Houses
From £44,950
PETERSFIELD
Det 4 bed Houses
From £38,000
FAIR OAK
Det 4 bed Houses
From £34,950
BLACKFIELD
3 bed Houses & Bungs
From £23,500
HUMBERSIDE
HOWDEN
Det 4 bed Houses
From £23,000
KENT
MAIDSTONE
Det 4 bed Houses
From £57,500
LANCASHIRE
BURY
Det 4 bed Houses
From £31,250
WESTHOUGHTON
4 bed Houses
From £29,500
2 bed Bungalows
From £24,950
NORDEN
4 & 5 bed Houses
From £32,950
2 bed Bungalows
From £29,750
WALES
DYSERTH
4 bed Det Houses
From £25,000

Prices correct at time of going to press

Offices at:
57 Hart Road, Thundersley, Benfleet, ESSEX SS7 3PG. Tel: 03745 57611
5a The Walk, Beccles, SUFFOLK. Tel: 0502 712133
Construct House, Winchester Road, Alresford, HAMPSHIRE, SO24 9EY Tel: 096 273 4311
Exwick House, Clyst-St-Mary, Exeter, DEVON EX5 1BR. Tel: 039 287 3174
27 High Street, Morley, Leeds, YORKSHIRE LS27 9AL. Tel: 0532 520880

wiggins



Martin Grant Homes

CHINEHAM, NR. BASINGSTOKE, HANTS
THE DORRINGTON
PRICES FROM
£51,950

A charming cottage style home affording 4 beds., 2 baths., through lounge, dining room, kit./breakfast room, cloakroom, utility, double attached garage.

CONTACT CAMPBELL THOMSON & CO. (0256) 54491 (7 days)

FERNDOWN, SANDHURST
Nr CAMBERLEY, SURREY
THE DANEWAY
PRICES FROM
£52,500

Mock Tudor style home with 4 beds., 2 baths., lounge/diner, kit./breakfast room, utility, cloaks., double attached garage

CONTACT CAMPBELL THOMSON & CO. (03446) 77723 (7 days)

MERROW PARK, GUILDFORD
THE FERNDALE
£75,950

4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 reception rooms, kitchen/breakfast, utility room, double garage. Details from Campbell Thomson & Co. at the showhouse.
Tel: Guildford (0483) 37627 (7 days)

Grant House, Felday Road, Abinger Hammer, Dorking, Surrey, RH5 6QP.
Telephone: Dorking (0306) 730822 (5 lines).

RUISLIP — "BURY STREET FARM"

A small select development of 4-bedroom detached Georgian-style homes. Full gas-fired central heating by radiators, quality fitted kitchens including waste-disposal and plumbing for washing machine, spacious living accommodation, rural setting, yet only 1 mile to Ruislip centre.
Prices from £76,950
SHOWHOUSE OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK. PLEASE PHONE FOR VIEWING TIMES.

HATCH END — "NEWLAND CLOSE"

Luxury detached cottage-style homes. Double glazing as standards, 3 and 4-bedroom houses with a choice of designs, gas central heating, well-fitted kitchen. Ideal situation, close to all amenities.
3-bedroom houses from £49,995
4-bedroom houses from £55,950
SHOWHOUSE OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK. PLEASE PHONE FOR VIEWING TIMES.

AYLESBURY

Situated onyl 1½ miles from the town centre, close to open countryside. A feature of the development are the open spaces and walkways. This development offers a wide choice of designs of 1, 2 and 4- bedroom houses with the usual Matthew Homes quality in construction.

"THE MEADOWS"
1-bedroom houses from £19,250.
2-bedroom houses (detached) from £23,250.
4-bedroom houses from £25,750.



MIDDLETON CHENEY — "FIELDVIEW"

A small select development of individual cottage-style 4-bedroom detached houses. Adjacent to open countryside, situated only 3 miles from Banbury.
Prices from only £25,500.
SHOWHOUSE OPEN MOST DAYS. PLEASE PHONE FOR VIEWING TIMES.

NORTHAMPTON — "THE CRESCENT"



Situated in one of the most popular areas of Northampton, only 1½ miles from the town centre. A carefully planned and varied development of houses and bungalows. Second phase just released.
3-bedroom detached houses from £27,250.
3/4-bedroom houses from £31,750.
SHOWHOUSE OPEN MOST DAYS. PLEASE PHONE FOR VIEWING TIMES.

Matthew Homes Limited
116 College Road, Harrow, Middlesex. Tel: 01-863 9123



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The sign of a sound investment

Now there's a way to know that your new home is really good value to buy. Comfortable to live in. And easy and economical to run. The Medallion Award. It's your guarantee that your home is designed and built to save energy, with electric heating plus a *specially high standard of insulation for all-round comfort.*

Some of the new homes now being built to the Medallion Award specifications.

See details correct at time of going to press. For full details of properties, please contact the builder.

MIDDLESEX
Heston – Upper Sutton Lane
3 bedroom houses and 2 bedroom flats. Prices on application. Builder Fairview Estates (Housing) Ltd., Refuge House, River Front, Enfield, Middx.

NORFOLK
Great Ryburgh – Wensum Court, Station Road
3 bedroom houses. Prices from £15,850. Selling Agents: Hills, 7 Oak Street, Fakenham Tel. Fakenham (0328) 2070 & 2175

OXFORDSHIRE
Carterton – Alvescot Orchard, Alvescot Road
2 & 3 bedroom terraced houses. Prices from £19,495. Builder: G. D. Morris Ltd., 62 Station Approach, South Ruislip, Middx. Agent: Andrews & Partners, Witney Tel. Witney 3025.

SHROPSHIRE
Callow Lane, Minsterley Nr. Shrewsbury
4 bedroom houses. 3 bedroom houses. 3 bedroom bungalows. 2 bedroom bungalows. Prices on application. Builder M. A. Boswell (Contractors) Ltd., Lancaster Road, Shrewsbury.

SOMERSET
Henstridge – Riverside Gardens
3 & 4 bedroom houses. Prices from £36,250. Builder: Treenwood Ltd., 39-43 College Green, Bristol BS1 5SE. Agent: Pridmore & Co., 182 Victoria Road, Swindon SN1 3DG

Minehead – Parkhouse Road
Semi-detached houses. Prices on application. Builder: Magnus Developments Ltd., King Square, Bridgwater, Somerset.

Taunton – Osbourne Court
2 and 3 bedroom flats. Prices on application. Builder Stansell & Son Ltd., Tauntfield, South Road, Taunton.

STAFFORDSHIRE
Stoke-on-Trent. High Acres, Chapel Lane, Harriseahead.
Bungalows. Prices on application. Builder: R. Dale & Co. (Builders) Ltd., Linley Hall, Talke, Stoke-on-Trent. Warwickshire.

SUFFOLK
Eastfields, Bawdsey
5 bedroom detached houses from £39,750 to £42,500. Builder: Pinnock Construction Company Ltd., Warwick House, Market Place, Braintree, Essex.

Sudbury – Newton Croft
3 bedroom houses. *Price: £19,250* Builder: R. W. Mills, Meakings Road, Chilton Industrial Estate, Sudbury.

SURREY
Kenley – Windermere Court, Park Road
1 & 2 bedroom flats. Prices £28,950 & £35,950. Builder: W. R. Newland & Sons Ltd., 129 Croydon Road, Caterham, Surrey.

Surbiton – Lovelace Gardens
1 & 2 bedroom flats. Prices on application. Builder Anns Homes Ltd., 7 Wolsey Road, Molesey.

Weybridge – Baker Street
1 & 2 bedroom flats. Prices from £28,000. Builder: E. Clarke & Sons (Homes) Ltd., Brighton Road, Addlestone, Weybridge.

SUSSEX
Barnham – Parsonage Farm, West Sussex
2 & 3 bedroom flats. *Prices from £18,500* Builder D. G. Phillips (Bosham) Ltd., Delling Lane, Bosham. All enquiries to Whiteheads, Estate Agents, 52 South Street, Chichester. Tel. 785181.

Crowborough – East Sussex, Rochester Way.
3 bedroom split level bungalows. Prices from £35,000. Builder Intergrove (Building Development) Ltd. Rochester Way, Crowborough Tel: Crowborough 63680.

WILTSHIRE
Chippenham – Saxon's Piece, Sutton Benger.
4 bedroom detached houses. From £44,150. Builder: F. Rendell & Sons Ltd., Long Street, Devizes, Wilts.

Cricklade – West Mill Lane
4 bedroom detached houses. Prices from £33,950. Builder: Wilcon Homes Ltd., Commercial Road, Swindon. Tel Swindon 36361.

Westbury – Bitham Park, Bratton Road
2 & 3 bedroom semi-detached – 3 & 4 bedroom detached houses. Prices from £18,000 *Builder F. Rendell & Sons Ltd.*, Elm Tree Court, Long Street, Devizes, Wilts.

WORCESTERSHIRE
Welland, Nr. Malvern
Detached, link-detached & semi-detached. *Prices on application.* Builder: Bovis Homes Ltd., Bovis House, Winchcombe St., Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

YORKSHIRE
Sheffield – Woodhouse Hudson Road
Link detached houses from £17,750. *Builder. Burncross Construction* Ltd., Station Yard, Sheffield Road, Sheffield. All enquiries to: Toone & Co., Estate Agents, Church Street, Sheffield.

WALES
DYFED
Penrhyncoch – Nr. Aberystwyth, Gerykan
3 bedroom detached bungalows from £25,000. Builder H. Jenkins & Sons, Ty-Mawr, Penrhyncoch.

Llandeilo Road, Gorslas
Luxury 4 bedroom detached houses. Prices on application. Builder Gilcon Ltd., Main Lodge, Castle, Swansea.

GWENT
Wheatsheaf Court, Magor
3 and 4 bedroom houses. Prices on application. Builder: Aiken Contracts (Roads) Ltd., 16 Floreat Glade, Newport, Gwent.

MID GLAMORGAN
Ogmore-by-Sea, Marine Walk
Bungalows. Prices on application. Builder: Toland Construction Ltd. 45 Aberdare Road, Aberdare, Cwmbach.

SOUTH GLAMORGAN
Crickhowell – Darren View, Pregge Farm Estate
4 & 5 bedroom detached houses. Prices from £33,500. Builder: Baraight Ltd., T. Roch, Old Road, Bwlch, Powys.

SCOTLAND
Ayrshire – Fairlie, Castlepark Gardens
3 and 4 bedroom semi-detached bungalows. Prices from £27,300. 4 bedroom villas. Prices from £42,000. Builder: Shanks & McEwan (Contractors) Ltd., 22 Woodside Place, Glasgow G3 7OY.

Dumfries – Nithbank Estate
2 bedroom flats. £33,000. 3 bedroom flats. £37,000. Builder Robison & Davidson Ltd., 35/39 Annan Road, Dumfries.

Dunbartonshire – Meikle Aiden-Brae, Kilcreggan
3 and 4 bedroom bungalows. Prices from £36,000. Builder: Interstruct Ltd., Kilcraige Cottage, Shore Road, Kilcreggan.

Edinburgh – Craigcrook Road
1 and 2 bedroom houses. Prices on application. Builder: Albert Thain Ltd., 226 Queensferry Road, Edinburgh.

Hamilton – Nethan Gate
2 & 3 bedroom flats, from £21,000. 4 bedroom houses, from £42,500. Builder Barratt Developments (Falkirk) Ltd., 7 Maggiewoods Lane, Falkirk.

Renfrewshire – Bridge of Weir
2 bedroom flats. Prices on application. Builder James Y Feanie Ltd., 21 Blythswood Square, Glasgow.

This is just a selection of current Medallion Award developments. More are available in various locations throughout the country and new developments are constantly being introduced. Ask us for the latest details.

If you have your own plot, there are several specialist firms who can build you a home to Medallion Award standards.

For full information, write to 'Medallion Award Homes', BuildElectric Bureau, 26 Store Street, London WC1E 7BT ... and enjoy clean, modern electric living at an economical cost.

CHOOSE ELECTRIC
The Electricity Council

LUXURY FLATS BECKENHAM, KENT

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PRICES FROM £33,250 TO £33,950

FORSYTHE SHADES, 29 THE AVENUE, BECKENHAM

Show flat open every weekend
Weekday viewing by appointment
Full details from:
GLOBAL HOMES LIMITED
01-776 1666

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(Junction of Elm and Badsey Lane, Evesham)

Comprising 3 basic designs, we have 9 remaining properties in this luxury development. With a choice of 3 or 4 bedrooms, you can select your own choice of kitchen fittings and colour bathroom suites; all properties have central heating and fully turfed front gardens.
Forget redundancy worries, we protect your mortgage: this service is free.

All properties are finished to the highest standards.
Prices from £26,000.
For details contact Selling Agents:

ARTHUR G. GRIFFITHS & SON,
91 HIGH ST., EVESHAM.
TELEPHONE: (0386) 2981

4 exclusive village homes now being built in superb surroundings at West End Brimpton Berkshire



Prices from £56,000

This small architect designed development is situated at the junction of Brimpton Road and Hyde End Lane near the pleasant rural village of Brimpton. All four houses have special energy saving features, including extra loft insulation, cavity wall insulation and double glazed windows.
The site is conveniently placed for Newbury, Reading and Thatcham and the M4 Motorway is only 8 miles away.

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55 The Broadway,
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Thatcham 62666

Rockhold

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Offer the following quality West Country Homes

4 BEDROOMED LUXURY HOUSES
Wedmore from £52,000-£69,000
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Martock from £46,000-£55,000
Tavistock £40,000
Curry Rivel from £43,000-£47,000
Plymouth £63,000
Glastonbury £45,000

BUNGALOWS AVAILABLE AT
Marnhull from £39,000-£42,000
Curry Rivel from £43,000-£47,000
Chard £65,000

Ring Isle Brewers 551 for further details



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4 bedroom detached houses with double garages. Luxury fitted kitchen with waste disposal unit, *coloured bathroom suite, shower room en suite with* master bedroom, gas fired central heating, open fire to lounge, high standards of insulation, hardwood window frames, virtually maintenance free exterior.

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NEW SUNLEY QUALITY HOMES are also available at
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Northdown Park, Cliftonville, Margate, Kent.
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Send for brochure now
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(No stamp required)

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Allison Homes are building 3 and 4 bedroomed detached houses pleasantly situated in small towns and villages within easy reach of Peterborough and London trains (60 minutes). All complete with garage, central heating, fully tiled coloured bathroom, 2 wc's, fitted kitchen with walk-in pantry, utility room. High standard of finish. All constructed by local craftsmen with best quality materials throughout. 3 bed. Prices from £21,500 Freehold. Come and view any time, including weekends. Brochure on request to anywhere in the world.

ALLISON (CONTRACTORS) LIMITED
Dept TM, West Elloe Avenue, Spalding, Lincolnshire.
Tel: (0775) 4701 Telex: 32649

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Superb executive style new development at present under construction by

J. S. BLOOR

This undulating site consists of a variety of 3 & 4 bedroomed Georgian style semi detached and detached houses. Some with 2 bathrooms and double garages. *All properties* have gas fired C.H. available.
Prices from £28,500
Furnished show house open every day 1.30-4.30 except Monday and Thursday.
Contact Sole Agents

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Showhouse Tel.: (0252) 726539

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Pleasant sites in or around attractive Market Towns.
2 BEDROOM BUNGALOWS FROM £13,895
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All properties built to high specification by small private building firm.
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Wragby (067 34) 8831

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BRIANT & DONE Telephone: 01-735 2292

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CHESTER WAY, S.E.11. Only 2 houses now remaining out of 6 new attractive Georgian style houses. 4 Bedrooms. Dressing Room, Large Reception Room, Dining Room. 2 Bathrooms. Fitted Kitchen. Cloakroom. Gas C.H. Garden. Garage. Freehold £78,000. One mile from Westminster and convenient for Kennington Tube for City and West End.

157, KENNINGTON LANE, LONDON SE11 4HA

BUILT WITH SCANDINAVIAN WINTERS & FUEL PRICES IN MIND

Oxford City Centre 3 miles in Cumnor Village

Fascinating Scandinavian chalet bungalow. Master bedroom, ensuite bathroom with balcony, further 3 bedrooms and bathroom. L-shaped sitting and dining room, modern kitchen and bathroom. Choice of colours. Cloakroom, utility room. Full gas C.H. Double glazing throughout. Double garage with electrically operated up-and-over doors. S/c granny flat above garage. Walled garden, patio with lovely open country views. Completion early February 1981. Asking price £68,500.

BLENHEIM CONSTRUCTION LTD
08675 3385 or 0993 811886 (after 6 p.m.)



FROST BROTHERS CHARTERED SURVEYORS

ON SHOW SUNDAY, 25th JANUARY, 1981, BETWEEN 11.15 & 4.15 pm

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(Final phase nearing completion—only 2 remaining)
Select residential area with hillside aspect. Choice of 4 or 5 bedroom homes, each with 2 bathrooms (main ensuite), 3 reception rooms, luxury kitchen, separate utility room, cloakroom. Gas fired central heating. Double garage. Seclusion and privacy within walled gardens. £95,000 and £93,000 for the freehold.

For further details contact:
Mrs Salt, Frost Brothers, 1 Godstone Road, Purley, Surrey
Tel: 01-660 8228/9

HAMMOND APARTMENTS

The last 2 of these luxurious 1 bedroom apartments at Amen Corner SW17. Each is complete with superb kitchen, fully fitted with Gower Module 21 units—avocado bathroom suites—large living room—bedroom with wardrobes, entryphone and T.V. aerial points. £23,450 each with a 999 year lease.

HONES & CO.
30 MERTON RD, SW18
Tel: 874 8144

BURNHAM-ON-SEA

A unique group of 2- and 3-bedroomed houses in quiet cul-de-sac on the edge of the Sea. Fitted with gas-fired htg, lux kit and bathroom, cloakroom and sep garage. A few mins from main shopping centre.

Price £35,000
For further details:
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Bristol, S6 6YB
[PK9-28

TWO LUXURY HOMES
(in course of construction)

12 miles South of Bristol

IN AN IDYLLIC POSITION WITH OUTSTANDING VIEWS OF HILLS AND FARMLAND ACROSS

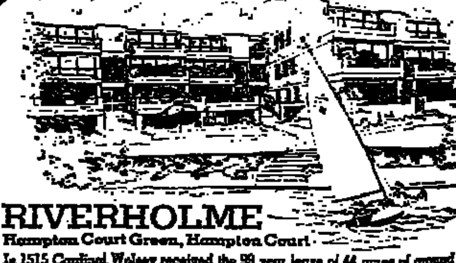
BLAGDON LAKE

Entrance porch, entrance hall, large sitting room, dining room, study, fully fitted kitchen, utility room. Master bedroom with bathroom en suite, 5 further bedrooms, second bathroom. Full oil-fired central heating. Double garage. Gardens.

Designed to an extremely high standard with first class finishings.

Osmond, Tricks





RIVERHOLME
Hampton Court Green, Hampton Court

In 1515 Cardinal Wolsey received the 99 year lease of 44 acres of ground on a bend in the River Thames half a day's ride from London. He created one of England's finest examples of Tudor architecture, Hampton Court Palace. Today, 466 years later, we are offering a selection of luxury new one and two bedroom flats with 125 year leases on that same beautiful stretch of river only a few hundred yards from the Palace. Features include Wrighton fitted kitchens with 'Neff' oven, hob and fridge, superb fully tiled en-suite bathrooms with onyx fittings and shower, fitted wardrobes, entryphone, balconies overlooking south facing sun trap landscaped riverside gardens, moorings. Underground parking. Prices from £45,950. Sole Agents Redman & Co 01-549 9033.
Show Flat open Sunday 2.0 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. 01-941 4028

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NEW HOMES FINANCE-SERVICES

appears on page 23

NEW YEAR NEW HOME

A chink of light in the housing gloom

The war years apart, 1980 was the worst in more than 50 years for new housebuilding. With unemployment among construction workers reaching record levels private housing completions slumped to 120,000 and starts on the ground to 96,000. And as the gloomiest year in memory went on, the housebuilding recession grew steadily worse.

According to Department of the Environment statistics, total housing starts in the three months September-November were 7 per cent lower than in the previous quarter, and 41 per cent down on a year earlier while completions were down 7 and 10 per cent respectively—and as the weeds grew on vacant building plots Mr Neil McIntosh, director of Shelter, was moved to say earlier this month: "In *the months ahead, the statistics* will assume the form of a blank piece of paper".

It takes a brave man to predict a recovery in the coming year but in his annual review Mr Andrew Tait, Director General of the National House Building Council—the consumer watchdog body—detects a chink of light in the gloom.

He gave three reasons why 1981 should be a better year: house prices have risen at a much slower rate of 6 per cent while average earnings have increased at over 20 per cent in the past year; the average deposit which first time buyers must pay has fallen; interest rates are on the way down.

In his review he added: "The housing market is a pyramid. These changes will enable more first time buyers at the foot of the pyramid to afford to buy. For new housing the picture is further improved by the fact that many builders have switched production to starter units to cater for the half of households which now comprise one or two persons".

In an interview with *The Times*, Mr Tait said: "My optimism might imply that I think things will be marvellous, whereas I think they will be less worse. But I also think that part of the depression is caused by the fact that everyone preaches gloom and doom. We have to have a balanced view of things. We shall start more houses this year than last thought still far fewer than we shall see in 1982 unless there is some new catastrophe".

With the high interest rates, average monthly mortgage repayments were too high in relation to earnings to stimulate the market and encourage builders to put up speculative developments. It was this factor, together with too fast a rise in house prices a year ago, which led to the disaster of the past 12 months.

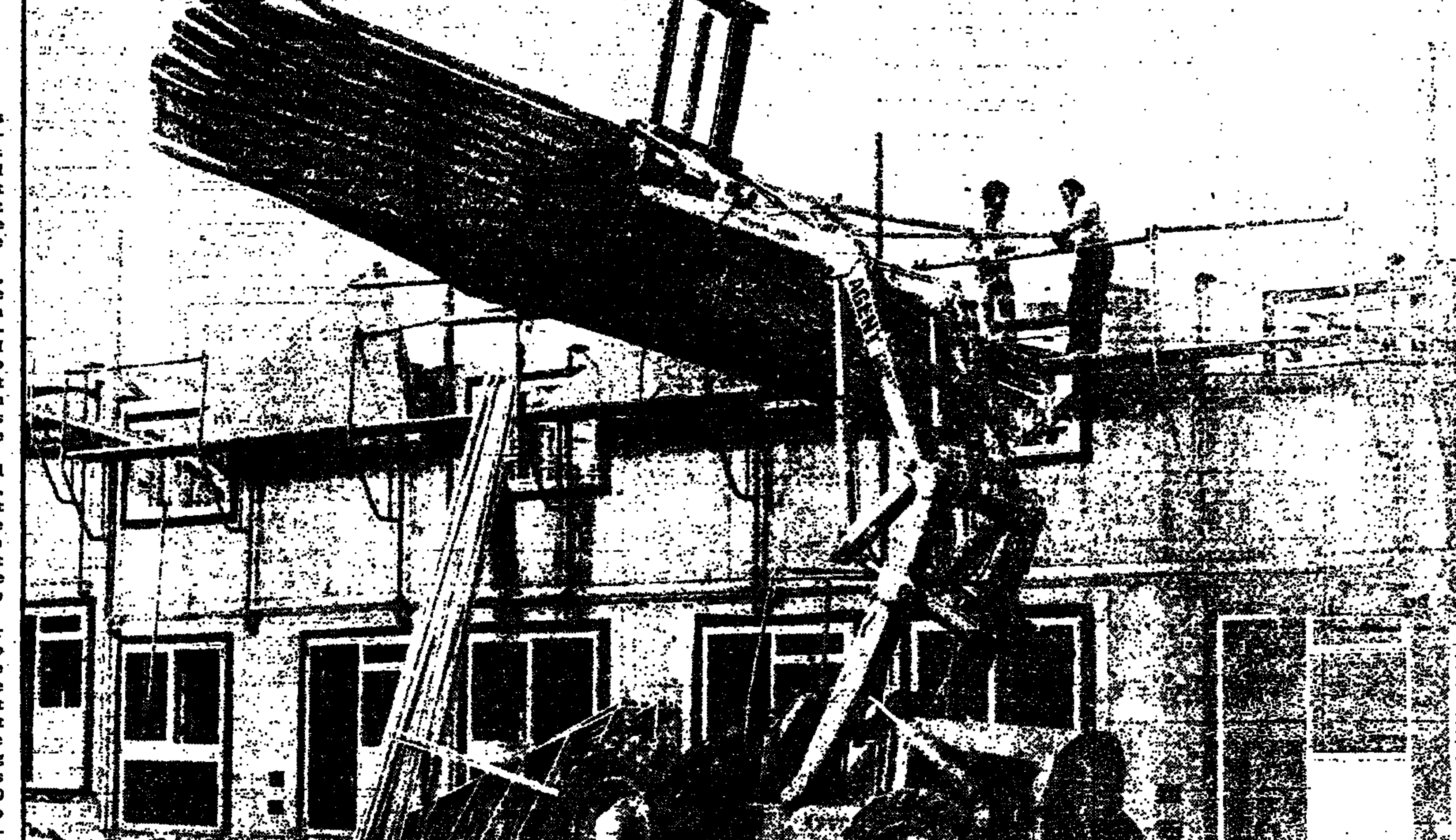
"Now prices have stabilized over the past nine months", said Mr Tait, "and interest rates have come down one point. That is not enough to *make a decisive difference* but it does make some difference *and, as rates come down,* so the position will improve.

"The problem is the vendor in the second-hand market who still has an inflated idea of the value of his house. We have had people writing to us about houses which were badly built and we knew that on the same estate other people were trying to sell for £80,000 houses which cost them £11,000 10 years ago. Sellers have had to go through a period of psychological adjustment and the process is still going on."

Speculative builders will only return when builders detect confidence in the market and Mr Tait believes this will ony be achieved by a 2 per cent drop in interest rates.

Mr Tait added: "I would be a clever chap if I knew precisely when there might be an improvement but we might begin to see one in the spring and early summer".

Particularly depressing to the NHBC has been the performance in Scotland, which does not have a tradition of home ownership and where there have been attempts to stimulate one. Only about 8,000 new homes were built in Scotland last year, representing 9 per cent of the 96,000 total of starts.



The south-east had 15 per cent of the total, the south-west 19 per cent, the east 16 per cent, the west 14 per cent, the north-east 17 per cent, and the north-west 10 per cent. Of the 96,000 starts, 9,000 were by Wimpey Homes who claim to be the world's leading private home builders.

A spokesman there said: "We are optimistic. Early signs look encouraging. There is more flexibility in the second-hand home market and that is the key to renewed buoyancy. A large number of people haven't been able to sell and that has held back sales. That is what has caused the constipation in the system. The first-time purchase element has been strong.

"We are going into 1981 with a large spread of sites and we have attractive energy-saving homes to offer. Last year speculative development was diminished and we were only building to order.

"We are hoping to see speculative development again in late summer or early autumn." Not everyone is as optimistic about a quick recovery. Mr Jamie Stephenson, economic adviser to the House Builders' Federation, said: "I am an agnostic when it comes to predictions of a better year. I am quite relaxed about the solvency of building companies but not optimistic about the number of starts this coming year. It will be perhaps about 110,000. But the year after you will see the number of starts jump to 130-135,000. It's the classic cycle. It will happen as the economy is reflated. To get things moving we need local authorities to plough more land into the market, to release it under partnership deals with builders to develop for low cost ownership or half ownership. There has to be some enterprise."

The recession has led to enterprising schemes which builders have been forced to offer to prospective purchasers in a bid to keep the market moving.

Countryside Homes, for instance, are offering three options—a mortgage subsidy, a house exchange, or a moving-in allowance—to induce purchasers to buy from them.

These are initiatives which will continue to be needed over the next few painful months before the market returns to something approaching normality.

Michael Horsnell

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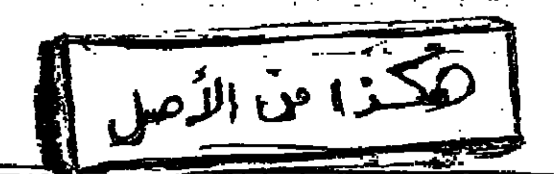
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FOR SALE

(continued on page 28)

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PERSONAL CHOICE



A. J. P. Taylor, the historian: Edge of Britain (ITV, 10.30)

● I was, spiritually, never far from A. J. P. Taylor's side as he made his pilgrimage to the Lancashire of his youth in Edge of Britain (ITV, 10.30), never more so than when he halted at Blackpool (my birthplace) or some rock, a ride on a tram and a view from the upper circle of the Phoenix-like Grand Theatre. He makes a matter-of-fact guide; quietly affectionate about the old things and not a bit sentimental, as Betjeman would probably have been. Slightly boyish at times, though, as when he shows that he can still touch his nose with the tip of his tongue. He does not like the changes he finds in his native country, least of all the administrative ones, and he is waspish about a nuclear power station.

● *Movie Memories* (ITV, 3.45 except Anglia) is a variation on the familiar theme of the film clips compilation. The idea is better than the execution of it. Roy Hudd, the soul of affability, elicits memories from film fans, shows a scene from the films in question, then conducts a star interview which, today, is with Jack Warner. In the event, the fans' reminiscences are inconsequential, and it is left to Mr Hudd himself to tell the only worthwhile story, which is about the theft of an entire row of cinema seats during a performance. The fans in general look a glum lot. When, and if, they bestir themselves to assist Mr Hudd to recapture some of the excitement that used to be a feature of cinemagoing, Movie Memories should make a pleasantly nostalgic afternoon's viewing.

● Jonathan Powell's production of Sons and Lovers last week successfully cleared the first hurdles: it got the "feel" of the Nottinghamshire coalfields right, and the characterizations of Gertrude and Walter More right. Tonight (BBC 2, 9.25) brings another set of hurdles: the entry of Miriam and the re-entry, now in his early manhood, of Paul. Getting Paul right, in particular, is going to be of vital importance in the weeks ahead.

● Music from two festivals on Radio 3 today, from last August's Edinburgh Festival and from Cardiff's festival, held last December. The Scottish concert includes the Mahler No. 1 played by the New York Philharmonic under Mehta (8.25).; the Welsh includes the Schumann Piano Concerto, played by Garrick Ohlsson and the BBC Welsh SO under Boettcher (11.10 am) .... Well-loved voices *from* the past and present (Olivier, Scofield, Donat, Gladys Young) are heard in These Our Actors (Radio 4, 7.45) the story of the BBC Drama Repertory Company. ... Checkpoint, Roger Cook's weekly savaging of those who take the consumer society for a ride, resumes on Radio 4 at 7.20. Is it not time that Mr Cook was given an award for bravery beyond the call of duty?

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN: †STEREO; *BLACK AND WHITE; (r) REPEAT.

Broadcasting Guide

Edited by Peter Davalle

TELEVISION

BBC 1

9.05 am For Schools, Colleges: Industrial forging; 9.35 Science: patterns of growth; 9.58 Let's Go (with Brian Rix): 10.12 The Elephant and the Bad Baby; 10.30 Home Economics: fats; 11.02 Science: sorting materials.
11.25 You and Me: A Working Day. **11.40 For Schools, Colleges:** Religious and moral education; 12.05 pm Kontakte. Closedown at 12.30.
12.45 News. 1.00 Pebble Mill at One: Ian Lyon goes on a cruise and finds out why so many people choose this kind of holiday. Also a cookery item. **1.45 Trumpton:** For the very young.
2.01 For Schools, Colleges: All about coats; 2.18 Snow and ice; **2.40 Read On:** The First Person; **3.00 Speak for Yourself:** Advice for those afraid to ask the GP to visit someone who is sick at home (r).
3.25 Delia Smith's Cookery Course: How to make biscuits, scones and crumpets (r). **3.55 Play School:** Nick Wilson's story Aaah-Tchool Also on BBC 2 at 11.00.
4.20 Laurel and Hardy: Cartoon. Train Strain. The two comedians appear in the flesh on BBC 2 at 5.35. **4.25 Jackanory:** Pippa Guard reads part 3 of Nina Warner Hooke's A Donkey Called Paloma.
4.40 Take Hart: The wonderful world of Tony Hart, clever draughtsman and likable chap. With Morph and The Tin Pots.
5.00 John Craven's Newsround: Junior newsreel. **5.05 The Strange Affair of Adelaide Harris:** Entertaining serial about a boys' academy. With Freddie Jones and Jim Harris (r).
5.40 News with Angela Rippon.
5.55 Regional News Magazines and Nationwide.
6.55 Triangle: Episode 6 of Luanshya Greer's romantic thriller about a shipping line. What is the real nature of the relationship between Katherine (Kate O'Mara) and Jeremy Gates?
7.20 After the Fox (1966) Forced comedy, directed without much subtlety by Vittorio de Sica. It's about a bullion robbery. Impressive enough cast—Peter Sellers, Victor Mature, Britt Ekland, Akim Tamiroff.
9.00 News with Kenneth Kendall.
9.25 Sportsnight: Borg and McEnroe are two of the eight tennis stars competing in the Volvo Grand Prix Masters Tournament, from Madison Square Garden, New York. Will it be another Borg-McEnroe final like last year's never-to-be forgotten battle at Wimbledon?
10.15 Open Secret: I'm Frightened of Carbohydrates. New series begins. A new angle on slimming: interviews with three people who use artificial means to get rid of excess food and are, therefore, suffering from the psychiatric illness called bulimia nervosa. The reporter is Peter Williams.
10.45 Parkinson: The mid-week edition of his chat show. His guests are Professor J. K. Galbraith, Omar Sharif and Bette Midler.
11.45 News headlines and weather forecast.

Regions

BBC 1 VARIATIONS: BBC Cymru/Wales 10.30-10.50 am I Ysgolion, 11.2-11.22 Ffenestri 1.45-2.0 pm Mister Men 5.5-5.35 Grange Hill. 5.35-5.40 Ivor the Engine. 5.55-6.20 Wales Today. 6.55-7.15 Heddiw 7.15-7.40 Triangle. 7.40-8.10 Seconds Out. 8.10-9.0 Star Trek 11.45 News headlines, and news and weather for Wales; Close. Scotland 12.40-12.45 pm Scottish News. 5.55-6.20 Reporting Scotland. 11.45 News headlines and news and weather for Scotland Close. Northern Ireland 3.53-3.55 pm Northern Ireland News. 5.55-6.20 Scene Around Six. 11.45 News headlines and news and weather for Northern Ireland. England 5.55-6.20 pm Regional magazines. 11.50 Close.

BBC 2

10.20 am Gharbar: For Asian women viewers. Music, a story for children, and home hints. Closedown at 10.45.
11.00 Play School: Same as BBC 1, 3.55. Closedown at 11.25.
5.35 pm Laurel and Hardy: Tit-for-Tat* (1935) Stanley and Oliver who have an electricians' shop clash violently with the next door traders, a grocer and his wife. Meanwhile, a thief depletes their stocks. A sequel, in a way, to Them Thar Hills, which had substantially the same cast.
5.55 Sixteen Up: The choices open to 16 and 18-year-olds who leave home, and how they can survive homelessness, difficult landlord and tenant relationships and the problem of managing a household.
6.20 The Master Game: Third in the international chess tournament for the Master Game trophy. It is between Tony Miles, of Great Britain (seven firsts in his last seven tournaments) and Bent Larsen, of Denmark. The commentary is provided by William Hartston.
6.50 Grapevine: Self-help projects in Scotland and Northern Ireland. The Scottish project is in Dundee and is run by Dundee Women's Aid. The Ulster project is in Omagh, and is designed to overcome the problems associated with the semi-rural nature of this area of Northern Ireland. The presenter is the former MP Helene Hayman.
7.20 News also weather forecast.
7.30 Travellers in Time: South with Shackleton. First in a new series of documentaries about early exploration, introduced by Duncan Carse. This film deals with one of the greatest survival stories of all time—Sir Ernest Shackleton's voyage to the Antarctic in 1914. The pictures were taken by the expedition's cameraman, Frank Hurley.
8.00 The Magic of Dance: Part 3 of Dame Margot Fonteyn's history of dance and dancers. She dances opposite Mikhail Baryshnikov in Le Spectre de la Rose, Fokine's great ballet recreated for the programme in its original setting—the stage of the Opera House in Monte Carlo.
9.00 M*A*S*H: Korean war comedy series. BJ and Hawkeye go too far with their practical jokes. With Alan Alda and Mike Farrell.
9.25 Sons and Lovers: The second episode of Trevor Griffiths's adaptation of D. H. Lawrence's novel about life in the Nottinghamshire coalfield. With Eileen Atkins and Tom Bell as the Morels, and Karl Johnson as Paul who tonight begins to take an interest in Miriam Leivers (Leonie Mellinger). Repeated on Saturday night. (See Personal Choice.)
10.20 God and the Scientist: New series. The world of six of Britain's most respected scientists who are Christians. Ronald Eyre interviews Antony Hewish, Professor of Radio Astronomy at Cambridge University, a former Nobel Prize winner.
10.45 Newsnight: The day's news, plus detailed analysis of the main stories.

THAMES

9.30 am For Schools: How a newspaper is made; 9.50 Making concepts come alive; 10.10 Back to the Victorian age; 10.35 The theme of working, in books; 11.05 All about cheese; 11.17 Our continental neighbours; 11.34 TV play: The Boy with the Transistor Radio.
12.00 Cloppa Castle: Mediaeval puppet show, written by Anna Standon. **12.10 pm Rainbow:** Sheila Steafel tells the story Charles Goes to the Office, by Ruth Ainsworth, with Peggy Burton's illustrations.
12.30 About Britain: SS Great Britain—Exactly as it Was: Wynford Vaughan-Thomas reivews the restoration work that has been done to Brunel's iron ship: it has now reached the halfway mark.
1.00 News. 1.20 Thames News. 1.30 Crown Court: The jury decides in the case in which a mother (Frances Cuka) is accused of assaulting a social worker (Elin Jenkins) (r).
2.00 After Noon Plus: With Mary Parkinson, Simon Reed.
2.45 Fantasy Island: Ricardo Montalban in a silly American series about a weird island where dreams sometimes come true.
3.45 Movie Memories: New series for film fans. Clips from old movies, plus viewers' memories of cinemagoing. Roy Hudd is the MC, and Jack Warner is interviewed. (See Personal Choice.) **4.15 Watch It! A Dr Snuggles story. 4.20 Runaround:** Mike Reid is the MC in this quiz game. **4.45 Brendon Chase:** Serial about three brothers living in a forest. Today's they are hunted like wild animals. **5.15 Emmerdale Farm:** Countryside serial.
5.45 News. 6.00 Thames news.
6.25 Help! Transport problems that beset the disabled, and how the disabled can improve their mobility. **6.35 Crossroads:** The motel serial. Arthur Brownlow's predicament.
7.00 This is Your Life: Eamonn Andrews, his big red book, and another unsuspecting subject for superficial biography. **7.30 Coronation Street:** Fred is reeling from the shock of the bouncing cheque when a CID man calls on him. And Deirdre gets another invitation to dine with Dirk Van Der Stek.
8.00 Starburst: New variety series begins. Petula Clark tops the bill and we also see impressionist Karen Kay, singer Dave Blakely, Hans Moretti and Helga in their crossbow act, and Paul Squire, comedy impersonator.
9.00 Honky Tonk Heroes: Comedy about a South London club for country and western fans. With James Grout and Sheila Steafel. Tonight, a night-out at the club turns sour when one of the patrons meets an old flame—in his wife's presence.
10.00 News from ITN.
10.30 Edge of Britain: A Lancashire Journey. The historian, A. J. P. Taylor goes on a journey back to the Lancashire that shaped his early life—to Blackpool, Preston, Morecambe, Heysham and Cartmel Priory, and to his birthplace, Birkdale, near Southport. He finds much of it changed. (See Personal Choice.)
11.30 Golf: The United States versus the rest of the world. Bill Rogers and Isao Aoki, who fought it out in the 1979 World Match Play Championship final are rematched on a course at north Berwick.
12.24 am Close: Christine Smith, who has muscular dystrophy, talks of things that brought her happiness.

RADIO

Radio 4

6.00 am News Briefing.
6.10 Farming Today.
6.30 Today.
7.00, 8.00 News.
7.30, 8.30 Headlines.
8.35 Yesterday in Parliament.
9.00 News.
9.05 Mid-Week.
10.00 News.
10.02 Gardeners' Question Time.
10.30 Daily Service.
10.45 Story: Dark Street, by Peter Emmet.
11.00 News.
11.05 Baker's Dozen.
12.00 News.
12.02 pm You and Yours.
12.27 Frank Muir Goes Into Anger.†
12.55 Weather.
1.00 The World at One.
1.40 The Archers.
2.00 News.
2.02 Woman's Hour.
3.00 News.
3.02 Play: Maintaining Standards, by Peter Whalley.†
3.50 Through My Window.
4.00 Choral Evensong.†
4.45 No Fond Return of Love (3).
5.00 PM.
5.55 Weather.
6.00 News
6.30 My Music.†
7.00 News.
7.05 The Archers.
7.20 Checkpoint. (See Personal Choice.)
7.45 These Our Actors. (See Personal Choice.)
8.45 Analysis.
9.30 Kaleidoscope.
10.00 The World Tonight.
10.30 Old Took's Almanac.†
11.00 Lord Jim (13).
11.15 Financial World Tonight.
11.30 Today in Parliament.
12.00 News.
12.15 am-12.23 Shipping forecast.

VHF
9.05 am Schools: Advanced Studies—English: Radio Thin King (1): La France Aujourd'hui (1); Poetry Corner; Music Makers; Something to Think About.
10.30 Listen With Mother.
10.45-12.00 Schools: The Music Box; By the People, for the People; Casebook 81; Quest.
2.00 pm-3.00 Schools: Movement and Drama; Books, Plays, Poems (1): Nature.
11.00-11.30 Study on 4: ¡Digame! (1).

Radio 3

6.55 am Weather.
7.00 News.
7.05 Records: Boccherini, Bach, Haydn (Sym 26).†
8.00 News.
8.05 Records: Auber, Beethoven, Wagner.†
9.00 News.
9.05 Week's Composer: Dowland.†
9.40 Organ (Trotter): Bach, Alain, Duruflé.†
10.35 Quartet (Eder): Brahms (Op 51 No 1).†
11.10 BBC Welsh SO/Boettcher, pt 1: Mendelssohn, Schumann (Pno Conc—Ohlsson).† (See Personal Choice.)
12.00 Interval reading.
12.05 pm BBCWSO, pt 2: Tchaikovsky (Sym 6).†
1.00 News
1.05 Songs, keyboards (live from Broadcasting House): Lilburn, H. Blake, Warlock.†
2.00 Music Weekly.†
2.50 Piano: Haydn, Chopin, Debussy.†
3.25 New Music from Eire: Bromhead, Buckley, Victory.†
4.00 The Prelude, by Wordsworth (3).
4.25 Mozart and the Violin (3).†
4.55 News.
5.00 Mainly for Pleasure.†
7.00 Six Continents.
7.20 NYPO/Mehta, pt 1: Webern (6 Pieces). Mahler (Ruckert Songs—J. Norman).†
8.05 The Eternal Husband (2).
8.25 NYPO, pt 2: Mahler (Sym 1).† (See Personal Choice.)
9.55 Piano (Firkusny): Beethoven (Op 10 No 1), Janacek, Smetana.†
11.00 News.
11.05-11.15 Record: Ravel.†

Radio 2

5.00 am News, weather. 5.03 Bob Kilbey.† 7.32 Terry Wogan.† 10.03 Jimmy Young.† 12.03 pm David Hamilton.† 2.03 Ed Stewart.† 4.03 Much More Music.† 6.03 John Dunn.† 8.02 Listen to the Band.† 8.45 Alan Dell.† 9.15 Semprini Serenade.† 10.02 Tony's. 10.30 Barry Took. 11.02 Brian Matthew. 2.02 am-5.00 You and the Night and the Music.†

Radio 1

5.00 am As Radio 2. 7.00 Mike Read. 9.00 Steve Wright. 11.00 Andy Peebles. 12.30 pm Newsbeat. 12.45 Paul Burnett. 2.32 Dave Lee Travis. 4.32 Peter Powell. 7.00 Mailbag. 8.00 Richard Skinner. 10.02 John Peel.† 12.00 Close.
VHF RADIOS 1 AND 2: 5.00 am With Radio 2. 10.00 pm With Radio 1. 12.00-5.00 am With Radio 2.

World Service

BBC World Service can be received in Western Europe on medium wave (648 kHz, 463m) at the following times (GMT):
6.00 am Newsdesk. 7.00 World News. 7.09 Twenty-four Hours. 7.45 Report on Religion. 8.00 World News. 8.09 Reflections. 8.15 Peebles' Choice 8.30 Animal, Vegetable or Mineral? 9.00 World News. 9.09 Review of the British Press. 9.15 The World Today. 9.30 Financial News. 9.40 Look Ahead. 9.45 Play it my Way. 10.15 Divertimento. 10.30 International Year of the Handicapped 11.00 World News 11.09 News about Britain. 11.15 Listening Post. 11.30 The Music Party. 12.00 Radio Newsreel. 12.15 pm Nature Notebook. 12.25 The Farming World. 12.45 Sports Round-up. 1.00 World News. 1.09 Twenty-four Hours. 1.30 Radio Theatre. 2.15 Report on Religion. 2.30 Aspects of the Blues. 3.00 Radio Newsreel. 3.15 Outlook. 4.00 World News. 4.09 Commentary. 4.15 Through the Looking Glass and What Alice Found There. 4.45 The World Today. 5.00 World News. 5.09 Book Choice. 5.15 Listening Post. 5.30 Take One. 8.00 World News. 8.09 Twenty-four Hours. 9.15 Play it My Way. 9.45 Four Hands in Harmony. 10.00 World News. 10.09 The World Today 10.25 Book Choice 10.30 Financial News. 10.40 Reflections. 10.45 Sports Round-up. 11.00 World News. 11.09 Commentary. 11.15 A House for Mr Biswas. 11.30 Top Twenty 12.00 World News. 12.09 am News about Britain. 12.15 Radio Newsreel. 12.30 Listening Post. 12.45 Musical Memories. 1.15 Outlook. 1.45 Living for Faith. 2.00 World News. 2.09 Review of the British Press 2.15 Network UK. 2.30 Assignment. 3.00 World News. 3.09 News about Britain. 3.15 The World Today. 3.30 John Peel. 4.00 Newsdesk. 5.45 The World Today.

WAVELENGTHS: Radio 1 medium wave 275m/1089kHz or 285m/1053kHz. Radio 2 med wave 330m/909kHz or 433m/693kHz and 88-91 VHF. Radio 3 med wave 247m/1215kHz and 90-92.5 VHF. Radio 4 long wave 1500m/200kHz and 92-95 VHF. Greater London area only: med wave 720kHz/417m. LBC 261m, 97.3 VHF, Capital 194m, 95.8 VHF. World Service: med wave 648kHz (463m). BBC Radio London 206m, 94.9 VHF.

REGIONAL TV

HTV
As Thames except: 12.30 pm-1.00 Survival. 1.20-1.30 HTV News. 2.00 Houseparty. 2.25 Film: Dangerous Mission (William Bendix and Vincent Price). 5.15 Dick Tracey. 5.20-5.45 Crossroads. 6.00 Report West. 6.30-7.00 S.S. Great Britain—Exactly as it was. 11.30 Superstar Profile: Woody Allen. 12.00 Weather and Closedown. HTV CYMRU/WALES: As HTV West except. 12.00-12.10 Ffalabalam. 4.15 pm-4.20 The Red Shoes. 4.45-5.15 Sraeon Y Byd 6.00-6.15 Y Dydd. 6.15-6.30 Report Wales.

Westward
As Thames except: 12.27 pm-12.30 Gus Honeybun's Birthdays. 1.20-1.30 Westward News Headlines. 2.45-3.45 Young Ramsey. 6.00-6.35 Westward Diary. 11.30 Faith for Life. 11.35 West Country weather. 11.36 Closedown.

Channel
As Thames except: 12.00-12.30 pm Closedown. 1.20-1.30 Channel Lunchtime News 6.00-6.35 Channel Report. 10.34 Scenes of Childhood. 11.30 Epilogue

Granada
As Thames except: 1.20-1.30 pm Granada Reports 2.00-2.50 Live From Two. 5.15-5.45 Welcome Back Kotter. 6.00 Granada Reports. 6.25-6.30 This Is Your Right. 11.30 Bluey. 12.35 am Closedown.

Ulster
As Thames except: 1.20 pm-1.30 Lunchtime. 2.45-3.45 Young Ramsay. 4.13 Ulster News. 5.15 Cartoon Time. 5.20-5.45 Crossroads. 6.00-7.00 Good Evening Ulster. 11.30 Bedtime. 11.40 Closedown.

ATV
As Thames except: 1.20 pm-1.30 ATV News. 5.15-5.45 In Loving Memory. 6.00 ATV News. 6.05 Crossroads. 6.30-7.00 ATV Today. 11.30 ATV News. 11.35 Late Night Country Music. 12.30 am Closedown.

Grampian
As Thames except: Starts 9.25 am-9.30 First Thing. 1.20 pm-1.30 North News. 6.00-6.35 North Tonight and Area Weather Forecast. 11.30 Reflections. 11.35 Paris by Night. 12.05 am North Headlines. 12.10 Closedown.

Border
As Thames except: 1.20 pm-1.30 Border News. 2.45-3.45 Love Boat. 5.15-5.45 University Challenge. 6.00-6.35 Lookaround Wednesday. 11.30 Border News Summary. 11.33 Closedown

Yorkshire
As Thames except: 1.20-1.30 pm Calendar News. 2.45-3.45 Lifeline. 5.15-5.45 Diff'rent Strokes. 6.00-6.35 Calendar. 11.30 The Lena Martell Show. 12.00 Closedown.

Scottish
As Thames except: 1.20-1.30 News and headlines 2.45-3.45 Certain Women. 5.15 Tales of Crime. 5.20-5.45 Crossroads. 6.00 Scotland Today. 6.30 Toye's Talk Back 6.30-7.00 War's at Way 11.30 Late Call. 11.35 Musical Special. 12.30 am Closedown.

Anglia
As Thames except: Starts 9.15-9.30 Jobline. 1.20 pm-1.30 Anglia News. 2.45 Young Ramsey 3.45-4.15 Valentine's Day. 6.00-6.35 About Anglia. 11.30 SWAT. 12.25 am The Big Question followed by Closedown.

Southern
As Thames except: 1.20-1.30 pm Southern news and weather. 2.00-2.25 Houseparty. 3.20-3.45 Survival Special. 5.15 Betty Boop. 5.20-5.45 Crossroads. 6.00 Day by Day 6.35-7.00 Scene Midweek. 11.30 That's Hollywood 12.00 Weather forecast followed by Loggerheads.

Tyne Tees
As Thames except: Starts 9.20 The Good Word. 9.25-9.30 North East News. 1.20 pm-1.30 North East News and Lookaround. 2.45-3.45 Danger-UXB. 5.15-5.45 Gambit. 6.00 North East News. 6.02 Crossroads. 6.25-7.00 Northern Life. 11.30 Laverne and Shirley. 12.00 First Class Citizen. 12.05 am Closedown.

Entertainments Guide

Classified Guide

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". . . If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."—2 Chronicles 7: 14.

BIRTHS

BARTLETT. — On 17th January 1981, at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, to Carolyn (nee King) and Michael, a daughter.

BEST.—On January 19th, at Queen Mary's, Roehampton, to Belinda and Richard—a daughter (Jessica).

BOCKETT-PUGH.—On 17th January, to Angela (nee Phelan) and Charles—a son (Paul James).

CHANNER.—On January 20, to Gervase and Annie—a son (Dorian Anthony Gervase), a brother for Theodore.

CORBETT.—On January 20, at St Albans City Hospital, to Virginia (nee Newsum) and Gerald—a son (John Francis Nolan), a brother for Sarah.

GATEHOUSE.—On 20th January, in Amsterdam, to Nicoline (nee Mustard) and Adam—a son (Alexander Geoffrey Piers Mustard).

JACOB.—On January 20th, to Daryl (nee Barnes) and Peter—a son Stephen Irving.

KIRK.—On January 19 at Hertford County Hospital, to James and Sezen (nee Ali-Riza)—a daughter (Semra Jane).

NERY.—On January 19th, at West London Hospital, to Caroline (nee Green) and Felipe—a daughter (Louise Amanda).

PETTY.—On Jan. 15th to Juliet (nee Plant) and Michael, a daughter, Bridget Camille, a sister for Emily.

SCOONES.—On January 20, to Francesca and Philip—a daughter.

SHELDON. — On 17th January, 1981, to Mike and Anne (nee Hearn-Miles)—a son.

SHEPHERD.—On January 16th, 1981, to Jane (nee Malcolm) and Richard, a son, Christopher Malcolm.

SIMPSON.—On January 5th, to Briony (nee Rollin) and Piers, a son (Anthony James).

SUTCLIFFE.—On January 17th, 1981, at Maisons-Laffitte, France, to Susan (nee Jackman) and Anthony—a son (Benjamin Charles Anthony).

WHITE.—On 17th January, at The Princess Margaret Hospital, Windsor, to Valerie (nee Rookard) and Alan—a daughter (Katherine Joy).

WIBBERLEY.—To Roger and Elizabeth (nee MacNamara)—a son (Marcus James) at Greenwich, on the 16th of January.

WIGGLESWORTH.—To Claudia (nee Bullough), on January 17th, a daughter, Arabella Rose Anne Bullough. Thank you St Mary's, Harrow Road.

WILLIAMS.—On January 18th, to Jasmine (nee Otaki) and Gavin—a son (Damon Charles Otaki).

GOLDEN WEDDING

CHAMBERLAIN : HOLMES. — On January 21st 1931 at Old Kirkpatrick Parish Church, Bearsden, George Digby to Christina Miller. Now at 18 Douglas Crescent, Edinburgh 12.

DEATHS

IN MEMORIAM

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

DIAMONDS

Diamond Grading Laboratories Ltd.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 15,429

ACROSS

1 Writer gives object of game—to score (4-5).
6 Bay sounds attractive to fishermen (5).
9 Worrying an unknown number with financial commitments (7).
10 Bravery of retired WO fills papers (7).
11 One sort of pen or another—see? (5).
12 Shunning aid on entering cave—both wrong (9).
13 Union is to get a cut—about £1 (8).
15 Premier huntsman? (4).
19 Heads of society (4).
20 Big blow for a worker in the bar (8).
23 Having diverted river, digs for cupric acetate (9).
24 Home for Hiawatha in the 8.15? (5).
26 Lapsus linguae man—flirtatious type? (7).
27 Will he win Rosalind—or catch nothing? (7).
28 Penultimate match makes us irritable (5).
29 Issue less than twenty? (9).

DOWN

1 Jack Piper, perhaps? (9).
2 Wager about £10 put up in a loose way (5).
3 Offer support, also renew it (8).
4 "Full of wise saws and modern ——s" (AYLI) (8).
5 Excellent hint to pew-opener (6).
6 Single gentlemen's preference (6).
7 Fresh supporter found round town (5, 4).
8 Just a little discernment? (5).
14 Herculean tasks so arduous (9).
16 Like a thief clear out, given commonsense (9).
17 Piano's quality—everything depends on it (8).
18 Island farm a producer of Spanish wear (8).
21 Sort of transplant (6).
22 Mount for a renegade artist (6).
23 Call to punish once (5).
25 Write to church to make change (5).

Solution of Puzzle No 15,428

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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ALSO ON PAGE 26

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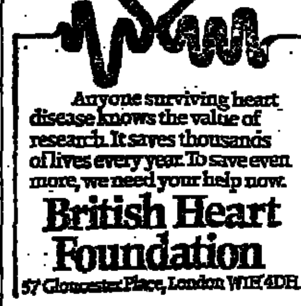
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(continued on page 26)







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